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THE

HISTORY

OF

England,

FROM THE

INVASION OF JULIUS CÆSAR

TO THE

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REVOLUTION IN 1688,

BY

David Hume.

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CHAPTER LIX.

CHARLES I.

MUTINY OF THE ARMY....THE KING SEIZED BY JOYCE....THE ARMY MARCH AGAINST THE PARLIAMENT....THE ARMY SUBDUE THE PARLIAMENT....THE KING FLIES TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT....SECOND CIVIL WAR....INVASION FROM SCOTLAND....THE TREATY OF NEWPORT....THE CIVIL WAR AND INVASION REPRESSED....THE KING SEIZED AGAIN BY THE ARMY....THE HOUSE PURGED....THE KING'S TRIAL....EXECUTION....AND CHARACTER.

THE dominion of the parliament was of ſhort duration. No ſooner had they ſubdued their ſovereign than their own ſervants roſe againſt them, and tumbled them from their ſlippery throne. The ſacred boundaries of the laws being once violated, nothing remained to confine the wild projects of zeal and ambition; and every ſucceſſive revolution became a precedent for that which followed it.

In proportion as the terror of the king's power diminiſhed, the diviſion between independent and preſbyterian became every day more apparent; and the neuters found it at laſt requiſite to ſeek ſhelter in one or the other faction. Many new writs were iſſued for elections, in the room of members who had died, or were diſqualified by adhering to the king; yet ſtill the

preſbyterians retained the ſuperiority among the commons; and all the peers, except lord Say, were eſteemed of that party. The independents, to whom the inferior ſectaries adhered, predominated in the army; and the troops of the new model were univerſally infected with that enthuſiaſtic ſpirit. To their aſſiſtance did the independent party among the commons chiefly truſt, in their projects for acquiring the aſcendant over their antagoniſts.

Soon after the retreat of the Scots, the preſbyterians, ſeeing every thing reduced to obedience, began to talk of diminiſhing the army; and, on pretence of eaſing the public burdens, they levelled a deadly blow at the oppoſite faction; they purpoſed to embark a ſtrong detachment, under Skippon and Maſſey, for the ſervice of Ireland; they openly declared their intention of making a great reduction of the remainder.[p] It was even imagined that another new model of the army was projected, in order to regain to the preſbyterians that ſuperiority which they had ſo imprudently loſt by the former.[q]

The army had ſmall inclination to the ſervice of Ireland; a country barbarous, uncultivated, and laid waſte by maſſacres and civil commotions: they had leſs inclination to diſband, and to renounce that pay, which, having earned it through fatigues and dangers, they now purpoſed to enjoy in eaſe and tranquillity. And moſt of the officers, having riſen from the dregs of the people, had no other proſpect, if deprived of their commiſſion, than that of returning to languiſh in their native poverty and obſcurity.

Theſe motives of intereſt acquired additional influence, and became more dangerous to the parliament from the religious ſpirit by which the army was univerſally actuated. Among the generality of men, educated in regular, civilized ſocieties, the ſentiments of ſhame, duty, honour, have conſiderable autho-

rity, and ſerve to counterbalance and direct the motives derived from private advantage: but, by the predominancy of enthuſiaſm among the parliamentary forces, theſe ſalutary principles loſt their credit, and were regarded as mere human inventions, yea moral inſtitutions, fitter for heathens than for Chriſtians.[r] The ſaint, reſigned over to ſuperior guidance, was at full liberty to gratify all his appetites, diſguiſed under the appearance of pious zeal. And, beſides the ſtrange corruptions engendered by this ſpirit, it eluded and looſened all the ties of morality, and gave entire ſcope, and even ſanction, to the ſelfiſhneſs and ambition which naturally adhere to the human mind.

The military confeſſors were farther encouraged in diſobedience to ſuperiors by that ſpiritual pride to which a miſtaken piety is ſo ſubject. They were not, they ſaid, mere janizaries, mercenary troops inliſted for hire, and to be diſpoſed of at the will of their paymaſters;[s] religion and liberty were the motives which had excited them to arms; and they had a ſuperior right to ſee thoſe bleſſings, which they had purchaſed with their blood, enſured to future generations. By the ſame title that the preſbyterians, in contradiſtinction to the royaliſts, had appropriated to themſelves the epithet of godly, or the well-affected,[t] the independents did now, in contradiſtinction to the preſbyterians, aſſume this magnificent appellation, and arrogate all the aſcendant which naturally belongs to it.

Hearing of parties in the houſe of commons, and being informed that the minority were friends to the army, the majority enemies, the troops naturally intereſted themſelves in that dangerous diſtinction, and were eager to give the ſuperiority to their partiſans. Whatever hardſhips they underwent, though perhaps derived from inevitable neceſſity, were aſcribed to a ſettled deſign of oppreſſing them, and reſented as an effect of the animoſity and malice of their adverſaries.

Notwithſtanding the great revenue which accrued from taxes, aſſeſſments, ſequeſtrations, and compoſitions, conſiderable arrears were due to the army; and many of the private men, as well as officers, had near a twelvemonth's pay ſtill owing to them. The army ſuſpected that this deficiency was purpoſely contrived, in order to oblige them to live at free quarters; and, by rendering them odious to the country, to ſerve as a pretence for diſbanding them. When they ſaw ſuch members as were employed in committees and civil offices accumulate fortunes, they accuſed them of rapine and public plunder. And, as no plan was pointed out by the commons for the payment of arrears, the ſoldiers dreaded that, after they ſhould be diſbanded or embarked for Ireland, their enemies, who predominated in the two houſes, would entirely defraud them of their right, and oppreſs them with impunity.

MUTINY OF THE ARMY. 1647.

On this ground or pretence did the firſt commotions begin in the army. A petition, addreſſed to Fairfax the general, was handed about; craving an indemnity, and that ratified by the king, for any illegal actions, of which, during the courſe of the war, the ſoldiers might have been guilty; together with ſatisfaction in arrears, freedom from preſſing, relief of widows and maimed ſoldiers, and pay till diſbanded.[u] The commons, aware of what combuſtible materials the army was compoſed, were alarmed at this intelligence. Such a combination, they knew, if not checked in its firſt appearance, muſt be attended with the moſt dangerous conſequences, and muſt ſoon exalt the military above the civil authority. Beſides ſummoning ſome officers to anſwer for this attempt, they immediately voted that the petition tended to introduce mutiny, to put conditions upon the

parliament, and to obſtruct the relief of Ireland; and they threatened to proceed againſt the promoters of it as enemies to the ſtate, and diſturbers of public peace.[x] This declaration, which may be deemed violent, eſpecially as the army had ſome ground for complaint, produced fatal effects. The ſoldiers lamented that they were deprived of the privileges of Engliſhmen; that they were not allowed ſo much as to repreſent their grievances; that, while petitions from Eſſex and other places were openly encouraged againſt the army, their mouths were ſtopped; and that they, who were the authors of liberty to the nation, were reduced, by a faction in parliament, to the moſt grievous ſervitude.

In this diſpoſition was the army found by Warwick, Dacres, Maſſey, and other commiſſioners, who were ſent to make them propoſals for entering into the ſervice of Ireland.[y] Inſtead of inliſting, the generality objected to the terms; demanded an indemnity; were clamorous for their arrears; and, though they expreſſed no diſſatisfaction againſt Skippon, who was appointed commander, they diſcovered much ſtronger inclination to ſerve under Fairfax and Cromwell.[z] Some officers, who were of the preſbyterian party, having entered into engagements for this ſervice, could prevail on very few of the ſoldiers to inliſt under them; and, as theſe officers lay all under the grievous reproach of deſerting the army, and betraying the intereſts of their companions, the reſt were farther confirmed in that confederacy which they had ſecretly formed.[a]

To petition and remonſtrate being the moſt cautious method of conducting a confederacy, an application to parliament was ſigned by near two hundred officers; in which they made their apology with a very imperious air, aſſerted their right of petitioning, and complained of that imputation thrown upon them by the former declaration of the lower houſe.[b] The private men

likewiſe of ſome regiments ſent a letter to Skippon; in which, together with inſiſting on the ſame topics, they lament that deſigns were formed againſt them and many of the godly party in the kingdom; and declare that they could not engage for Ireland till they were ſatisfied in their expectations, and had their juſt deſires granted.[c] The army, in a word, felt their power, and reſolved to be maſters.

The parliament too reſolved, if poſſible, to preſerve their dominion; but, being deſtitute of power, and not retaining much authority, it was not eaſy for them to employ any expedient which could contribute to their purpoſe. The expedient which they now made uſe of was the worſt imaginable. They ſent Skippon, Cromwell, Ireton, and Fleetwood, to the head quarters at Saffron Weldon in Eſſex; and empowered them to make offers to the army, and inquire into the cauſe of its diſtempers. Theſe very generals, at leaſt the three laſt, were ſecretly the authors of all the diſcontents; and failed not to foment thoſe diſorders which they pretended to appeaſe. By their ſuggeſtion a meaſure was embraced, which at once brought matters to extremity, and rendered the mutiny incurable.

In oppoſition to the parliament at Weſtminſter a military parliament was formed. Together with a council of the principal officers, which was appointed after the model of the houſe of peers, a more free repreſentative of the army was compoſed, by the election of two private men or inferior officers, under the title of agitators, from each troop or company.[d] By this means both the general humour of that time was gratified, intent on plans of imaginary republics, and an eaſy method contrived for conducting underhand, and propagating, the ſedition of the army.

This terrible court, when aſſembled, having firſt declared that they found no diſtempers in the army, but many grievances,

CHARLES I. TAKEN BY COL. JOYCE.

under which it laboured, immediately voted the offers of the parliament unſatisfactory. Eight weeks' pay alone, they ſaid, was promiſed; a ſmall part of fifty-ſix weeks, which they claimed as their due; no viſible ſecurity was given for the remainder; and, having been declared public enemies by the commons, they might hereafter be proſecuted as ſuch unleſs the declaration were recalled.[e] Before matters came to this height Cromwell had poſted up to London, on pretence of laying before the parliament the riſing diſcontents of the army.

The parliament made one vigorous effort more, to try the force of their authority; they voted that all the troops, which did not engage for Ireland, ſhould inſtantly be diſbanded in their quarters.[f] At the ſame time the council of the army ordered a general rendezvous of all the regiments, in order to provide for their common intereſts; and, while they thus prepared themſelves for oppoſition to the parliament, they ſtruck a blow which at once decided the victory in their favour.

THE KING SEIZED BY JOYCE.

A PARTY of five hundred horſe appeared at Holdenby, conducted by one Joyce, who had once been a taylor by profeſſion; but was now advanced to the rank of cornet, and was an active agitator in the army. Without being oppoſed by the guard, whoſe affections were all on their ſide, Joyce came into the king's preſence armed with piſtols, and told him that he muſt immediately go along with him. 'Whither?' ſaid the king. 'To the army,' replied Joyce. 'By what warrant?' aſked the king. Joyce pointed to the ſoldiers, whom he brought along; tall, handſome, and well accoutred. 'Your warrant,' ſaid Charles ſmiling, 'is writ in fair characters,[g] legible without ſpelling.' The parliamentary commiſſioners came into the room: they aſked

Joyce whether he had any orders from the parliament? He ſaid, 'No.' From the general? 'No.' By what authority he came? He made the ſame reply as to the king. They would write, they ſaid, to the parliament to know their pleaſure. 'You may do ſo,' replied Joyce; 'but in the mean time the king muſt immediately go with me.' Reſiſtance was vain. The king, after protracting the time as long as he could, went into his coach, and was ſafely conducted to the army, who were haſtening to their rendezvous at Triplo-heath, near Cambridge. The parliament, informed of this event by their commiſſioners, were thrown into the utmoſt conſternation.[h]

Fairfax himſelf was no leſs ſurpriſed at the king's arrival. That bold meaſure, executed by Joyce, had never been communicated to the general. The orders were entirely verbal, and nobody avowed them; and, while every one affected aſtoniſhment at the enterpriſe, Cromwell, by whoſe council it had been directed, arrived from London, and put an end to their deliberations.

This artful and audacious conſpirator had conducted himſelf in the parliament with ſuch profound diſſimulation, with ſuch refined hypocriſy, that he had long deceived thoſe, who, being themſelves very dexterous practitioners in the ſame arts, ſhould naturally have entertained the more ſuſpicion againſt others. At every intelligence of diſorders in the army he was moved to the higheſt pitch of grief and of anger. He wept bitterly; he lamented the misfortunes of his country; he adviſed every violent meaſure for ſuppreſſing the mutiny; and by theſe precipitate counſels at once ſeemed to evince his own ſincerity, and inflamed thoſe diſcontents of which he intended to make advantage. He obteſted heaven and earth that his devoted attachment to the parliament had rendered him ſo odious in the army, that his life, while among them, was in the utmoſt danger, and

he had very narrowly eſcaped a conſpiracy formed to aſſaſſinate him. But, information being brought that the moſt active officers and agitators were entirely his creatures, the parliamentary leaders ſecretly reſolved that next day, when he ſhould come to the houſe, an accuſation ſhould be entered againſt him, and he ſhould be ſent to the tower.[1] Cromwell, who in the conduct of his deſperate enterpriſes frequently approached to the very brink of deſtruction, knew how to make the requiſite turn with proper dexterity and boldneſs. Being informed of this deſign he haſtened to the camp, where he was received with acclamations, and was inſtantly inveſted with the ſupreme command, both of general and army.

Fairfax, having neither talents himſelf for cabal, nor penetration to diſcover the cabals of others, had given his entire confidence to Cromwell; who, by the beſt coloured pretences, and by the appearance of an open ſincerity and a ſcrupulous conſcience, impoſed on the eaſy nature of this brave and virtuous man. The council of officers and the agitators were moved altogether by Cromwell's direction, and conveyed his will to the whole army. By his profound and artful conduct he had now attained a ſituation where he could cover his enterpriſes from public view; and, ſeeming either to obey the commands of his ſuperior officer, or yield to the movements of the ſoldiers, could ſecretly pave the way for his future greatneſs. While the diſorders of the army were yet in their infancy he kept at a diſtance, leſt his counterfeit averſion might throw a damp upon them, or his ſecret encouragement beget ſuſpicion in the parliament. As ſoon as they came to maturity he openly joined the troops, and in the critical moment ſtruck that important blow of ſeizing the king's perſon, and depriving the parliament of any reſource of an accommodation with him. Though one vizor fell off, another ſtill remained, to cover his natural countenance.

Where delay was requiſite he could employ the moſt indefatigable patience; where celerity was neceſſary he flew to a deciſion: and, by thus uniting in his perſon the moſt oppoſite talents, he was enabled to combine the moſt contrary intereſts in a ſubſerviency to his ſecret purpoſes.

THE ARMY MARCH AGAINST THE PARLIAMENT.

The parliament, though at preſent defenceleſs, was poſſeſſed of many reſources; and time might eaſily enable them to reſiſt that violence with which they were threatened. Without farther deliberation, therefore, Cromwell advanced the army upon them, and arrived in a few days at St. Albans.

Nothing could be more popular than this hoſtility which the army commenced againſt the parliament. As much as that aſſembly was once the idol of the nation, as much was it now become the object of general hatred and averſion.

The ſelf-denying ordinance had no longer been put in execution than till Eſſex, Mancheſter, Waller, and the other officers of that party, had reſigned their commiſſion; immediately after it was laid aſide by tacit conſent; and the members, ſharing all offices of profit and power among them, proceeded with impunity in exerciſing acts of oppreſſion on the helpleſs nation. Though the neceſſity of their ſituation might ſerve as an apology for many of their meaſures, the people, not accuſtomed to ſuch a ſpecies of government, were not diſpoſed to make the requiſite allowances.

A ſmall ſupply of one hundred thouſand pounds a year could never be obtained by former kings from the jealous humour of parliaments; and the Engliſh, of all nations in Europe, were the leaſt accuſtomed to taxes: but this parliament, from the commencement of the war, according to ſome computations,

had levied, in five years, above forty millions;[k] yet were loaded with debts and incumbrances, which, during that age, were regarded as prodigious. If theſe computations ſhould be thought much exaggerated, as they probably are,[l] the taxes and impoſitions were certainly far higher than in any former ſtate of the Engliſh government; and ſuch popular exaggerations are at leaſt a proof of popular diſcontents.

But the diſpoſal of this money was no leſs the object of general complaint againſt the parliament than the levying of it. The ſum of three hundred thouſand pounds they openly took, it is affirmed,[m] and divided among their own members. The committees, to whom the management of the different branches of revenue was intruſted, never brought in their accounts, and had unlimited power of ſecreting whatever ſums they pleaſed from the public treaſure.[n] Theſe branches were needleſsly multiplied, in order to render the revenue more intricate, to ſhare the advantages among greater numbers, and to conceal the frauds of which they were univerſally ſuſpected.[o]

The method of keeping accounts practiſed in the exchequer was confeſſedly the exacteſt, the moſt ancient, the beſt known, and the leaſt liable to fraud. The exchequer was, for that reaſon, aboliſhed, and the revenue put under the management of a committee, who were ſubject to no control.[p]

The exciſe was an odious tax, formerly unknown to the nation; and was now extended over proviſions, and the common neceſſaries of life. Near one half of the goods and chattels, and at leaſt one half of the lands, rents, and revenues, of the kingdom had been ſequeſtered. To great numbers of royaliſts all redreſs from theſe ſequeſtrations was refuſed; to the reſt the remedy could be obtained only by paying large compoſitions, and ſubſcribing the covenant, which they abhorred. Beſides pitying the ruin and deſolation of ſo many ancient and honour-

able families, indifferent ſpectators could not but blame the hardſhip of puniſhing, with ſuch ſeverity, actions which the law, in its uſual and moſt undiſputed interpretation, ſtrictly required of every ſubject.

The ſeverities too, exerciſed againſt the epiſcopal clergy, naturally affected the royaliſts, and even all men of candour, in a ſenſible manner. By the moſt moderate computation,[9] it appears that above one half of the eſtabliſhed clergy had been turned out to beggary and want, for no other crime than their adhering to the civil and religious principles in which they had been educated, and for their attachment to thoſe laws under whoſe countenance they had at firſt embraced that profeſſion. To renounce epiſcopacy and the liturgy, and to ſubſcribe the covenant, were the only terms which could ſave them from ſo rigorous a fate; and, if the leaſt mark of malignancy, as it was called, or affection to the king, who ſo entirely loved them, had ever eſcaped their lips, even this hard choice was not permitted. The ſacred character, which gives the prieſthood ſuch authority over mankind, becoming more venerable from the ſufferings endured, for the ſake of principle, by theſe diſtreſſed royaliſts, aggravated the general indignation againſt their perſecutors.

But what excited the moſt univerſal complaint was the unlimited tyranny and deſpotic rule of the country committees. During the war the diſcretionary power of theſe courts was excuſed, from the plea of neceſſity; but the nation was reduced to deſpair when it ſaw neither end put to their duration, nor bounds to their authority. Theſe could ſequeſter, fine, impriſon, and corporally puniſh, without law or remedy. They interpoſed in queſtions of private property. Under colour of malignancy, they exerciſed vengeance againſt their private enemies. To the obnoxious, and ſometimes to the innocent, they ſold their protection. And, inſtead of one ſtar chamber, which had been

aboliſhed, a great number were anew erected, fortified with better pretences, and armed with more unlimited authority.'

Could any thing have increaſed the indignation againſt that ſlavery into which the nation, from the too eager purſuit of liberty, had fallen, it muſt have been the reflection on the pretences by which the people had ſo long been deluded. The ſanctified hypocrites, who called their oppreſſions the ſpoiling of the Egyptians, and their rigid ſeverity the dominion of the elect, interlarded all their iniquities with long and fervent prayers, ſaved themſelves from bluſhing by their pious grimaces, and exerciſed, in the name of the Lord, all their cruelty on men. An undiſguiſed violence could be forgiven; but ſuch a mockery of the underſtanding, ſuch an abuſe of religion, were, with men of penetration, objects of peculiar reſentment.

The parliament, conſcious of their decay in popularity, ſeeing a formidable armed force advance upon them, were reduced to deſpair, and found all their reſources much inferior to the preſent neceſſity. London ſtill retained a ſtrong attachment to preſbyterianiſm; and its militia, which was numerous, and had acquired reputation in wars, had, by a late ordinance, been put into hands in whom the parliament could entirely confide. This militia was now called out, and ordered to guard the lines which had been drawn round the city, in order to ſecure it againſt the king. A body of horſe was ordered to be inſtantly levied. Many officers, who had been caſhiered by the new model of the army, offered their ſervice to the parliament. An army of five thouſand men lay in the north under the command of general Pointz, who was of the preſbyterian faction; but theſe were too diſtant to be employed in ſo urgent a neceſſity. The forces deſtined for Ireland were quartered in the weſt; and, though deemed faithful to the parliament, they alſo lay at a diſtance. Many inland garriſons were commanded by officers of the ſame party;

but their troops, being ſo much diſperſed, could at preſent be of no manner of ſervice. The Scots were faithful friends, and zealous for preſbytery and the covenant; but a long time was required ere they could collect their forces and march to the aſſiſtance of the parliament.

In this ſituation it was thought more prudent to ſubmit, and by compliance to ſtop the fury of the enraged army. The declaration, by which the military petitioners had been voted public enemies, was recalled and eraſed from the journal-book.[s] This was the firſt ſymptom which the parliament gave of ſubmiſſion; and the army, hoping by terror alone to effect all their purpoſes, ſtopped at St. Albans, and entered into negociation with their maſters.

Here commenced the encroachments of the military upon the civil authority. The army, in their uſurpations on the parliament, copied exactly the model which the parliament itſelf had ſet them in their recent uſurpations on the crown.

Every day they roſe in their demands. If one claim was granted they had another ready, ſtill more enormous and exorbitant; and were determined never to be ſatisfied. At firſt they pretended only to petition for what concerned themſelves as ſoldiers; next they muſt have a vindication of their character; then it was neceſſary that their enemies be puniſhed;[t] at laſt they claimed a right of modelling the whole government, and ſettling the nation.[u]

They preſerved, in words, all deference and reſpect to the parliament; but, in reality, inſulted them and tyranniſed over them. That aſſembly they pretended not to accuſe; it was only evil counſellors, who ſeduced and betrayed it.

They proceeded ſo far as to name eleven members, whom, in general terms, they charged with high treaſon, as enemies to the army and evil counſellors to the parliament. Their names

were, Hollis, ſir Philip Stapleton, ſir William Lewis, ſir John Clotworthy, ſir William Waller, ſir John Maynard, Maſſey, Glyn, Long, Harley, and Nicholas.[x] Theſe were the very leaders of the preſbyterian party.

They inſiſted that theſe members ſhould immediately be ſequeſtered from parliament, and be thrown into priſon.[y] The commons replied that they could not, upon a general charge, proceed ſo far.[z] The army obſerved to them that the caſes of Strafford and Laud [a] were direct precedents for that purpoſe. At laſt the eleven members themſelves, not to give occaſion for diſcord, begged leave to retire from the houſe; and the army, for the preſent, ſeemed ſatisfied with this mark of ſubmiſſion.[b]

Pretending that the parliament intended to levy war upon them, and to involve the nation again in blood and confuſion, they required that all new levies ſhould be ſtopped. The parliament complied with this demand.[c]

There being no ſigns of reſiſtance, the army, in order ſo ſave appearances, removed, at the deſire of the parliament, to a greater diſtance from London, and fixed their head quarters at Reading. They carried the king along with them in all their marches.

That prince now found himſelf in a better ſituation than at Holdenby, and had attained ſome greater degree of freedom, as well as of conſideration, with both parties.

All his friends had acceſs to his preſence; his correſpondence with the queen was not interrupted; his chaplains were reſtored to him, and he was allowed the uſe of the liturgy; his children were once allowed to viſit him, and they paſſed a few days at Caverſham, where he then reſided.[d] He had not ſeen the duke of Gloceſter, his youngeſt ſon, and the princeſs Elizabeth, ſince he left London,[e] at the commencement of the civil diſorders;

nor the duke of York, ſince he went to the Scottiſh army before Newark. No private man, unacquainted with the pleaſures of a court and the tumult of a camp, more paſſionately loved his family than did this good prince; and ſuch an inſtance of indulgence in the army was extremely grateful to him. Cromwell, who was witneſs to the meeting of the royal family, confeſſed that he never had been preſent at ſo tender a ſcene; and he extremely applauded the benignity which diſplayed itſelf in the whole diſpoſition and behaviour of Charles.

That artful politician, as well as the leaders of all parties, payed court to the king; and fortune, notwithſtanding all his calamities, ſeemed again to ſmile upon him. The parliament, afraid of his forming ſome accommodation with the army, addreſſed him in a more reſpectful ſtyle than formerly; and invited him to reſide at Richmond, and contribute his aſſiſtance to the ſettlement of the nation. The chief officers treated him with regard, and ſpake on all occaſions of reſtoring him to his juſt powers and prerogatives. In the public declarations of the army the ſettlement of his revenue and authority was inſiſted on.[f] The royaliſts every where entertained hopes of the reſtoration of monarchy; and the favour which they univerſally bore to the army contributed very much to diſcourage the parliament, and to forward their ſubmiſſion.

The king began to feel of what conſequence he was. The more the national confuſions increaſed, the more was he confident that all parties would at length have recourſe to his lawful authority, as the only remedy for the public diſorders. 'You cannot be without me,' ſaid he, on ſeveral occaſions; 'you cannot ſettle the nation but by my aſſiſtance.' A people without government and without liberty, a parliament without authority, an army without a legal maſter; diſtractions every where, terrors, oppreſſions, convulſions; from this ſcene of confuſion, which could

not long continue, all men, he hoped, would be brought to reflect on that ancient government under which they and their anceſtors had ſo long enjoyed happineſs and tranquillity.

Though Charles kept his ears open to all propoſals, and expected to hold the balance between the oppoſite parties, he entertained more hopes of accommodation with the army. He had experienced the extreme rigour of the parliament; they pretended totally to annihilate his authority; they had confined his perſon. In both theſe particulars the army ſhewed more indulgence.[g] He had a free intercourſe with his friends. And, in the propoſals which the council of officers ſent for the ſettlement of the nation, they inſiſted neither on the abolition of epiſcopacy, nor of the puniſhment of the royaliſts; the two points to which the king had the moſt extreme reluctance; and they demanded that a period ſhould be put to the preſent parliament, the event for which he moſt ardently longed.

His conjunction too ſeemed more natural with the generals than with that uſurping aſſembly who had ſo long aſſumed the entire ſovereignty of the ſtate, and who had declared their reſolution ſtill to continue maſters. By gratifying a few perſons with titles and preferments he might draw over, he hoped, the whole military power, and in an inſtant reinſtate himſelf in his civil authority. To Ireton he offered the lieutenancy of Ireland; to Cromwell the garter, the title of earl of Eſſex, and the command of the army. Negociations to this purpoſe were ſecretly conducted. Cromwell pretended to hearken to them; and was well pleaſed to keep the door open for an accommodation, if the courſe of events ſhould at any time render it neceſſary. And the king, who had no ſuſpicion that one born a private gentleman could entertain the daring ambition of ſeizing a ſceptre, tranſmitted through a long line of monarchs, indulged hopes that he would at laſt embrace a meaſure which, by all the mo-

tives of duty, intereſt, and ſafety, ſeemed to be recommended to him.

While Cromwell allured the king by theſe expectations he ſtill continued his ſcheme of reducing the parliament to ſubjection, and depriving them of all means of reſiſtance. To gratify the army, the parliament inveſted Fairfax with the title of general in chief of all the forces in England and Ireland; and intruſted the whole military authority to a perſon who, though well inclined to their ſervice, was no longer at his own diſpoſal.

They voted that the troops, which, in obedience to them, had inliſted for Ireland, and deſerted the rebellious army, ſhould be diſbanded, or, in other words, be puniſhed for their fidelity. The forces in the north, under Pointz, had already mutinied againſt their general, and had entered into an aſſociation with that body of the army which was ſo ſucceſsfully employed in exalting the military above the civil authority.[h]

That no reſource might remain to the parliament, it was demanded that the militia of London ſhould be changed, the preſbyterian commiſſioners diſplaced, and the command reſtored to thoſe who during the courſe of the war had conſtantly exerciſed it. The parliament even complied with ſo violent a demand, and paſſed a vote in obedience to the army.[i]

By this unlimited patience they purpoſed to temporize under their preſent difficulties, and they hoped to find a more favourable opportunity for recovering their authority and influence: but the impatience of the city loſt them all the advantage of their cautious meaſures. A petition againſt the alteration of the militia was carried to Weſtminſter, attended by the apprentices and ſeditious multitude, who beſieged the door of the houſe of commons; and, by their clamour, noiſe, and violence, obliged them to reverſe that vote which they had paſſed ſo lately. When

gratified in this pretenſion they immediately diſperſed, and left the parliament at liberty.[k]

No ſooner was intelligence of this tumult conveyed to Reading than the army was put in motion. The two houſes being under reſtraint, they were reſolved, they ſaid, to vindicate, againſt the ſeditious citizens, the invaded privileges of parliament, and reſtore that aſſembly to its juſt freedom of debate and counſel. In their way to London they were drawn up on Hounſlow-heath; a formidable body, twenty thouſand ſtrong, and determined, without regard to laws or liberty, to purſue whatever meaſures their generals ſhould dictate to them. Here the moſt favourable event happened, to quicken and encourage their advance. The ſpeakers of the two houſes, Manchester and Lenthal, attended by eight peers and about ſixty commoners, having ſecretly retired from the city, preſented themſelves with their maces, and all the enſigns of their dignity; and, complaining of the violence put upon them, applied to the army for defence and protection. They were received with ſhouts and acclamations; reſpect was paid to them as to the parliament of England; and the army, being provided with ſo plauſible a pretence, which in all public tranſactions is of great conſequence, advanced to chaſtiſe the rebellious city, and to reinſtate the violated parliament.[l]

Neither Lenthal nor Manchester were eſteemed independents; and ſuch a ſtep in them was unexpected. But they probably foreſaw that the army muſt in the end prevail; and they were willing to pay court in time to that authority which began to predominate in the nation.

The parliament, forced from their temporiſing meaſures, and obliged to reſign at once, or combat for their liberty and power, prepared themſelves with vigour for defence, and determined to reſiſt the violence of the army. The two houſes immediately

choſe new ſpeakers, lord Hunſdon and Henry Pelham; they renewed their former orders for enliſting troops; they appointed Maſſey to be commander; they ordered the trained bands to man the lines; and the whole city was in a ferment, and reſounded with military preparations.

When any intelligence arrived, that the army ſtopped or retreated, the ſhout of 'One and all' ran with alacrity from ſtreet to ſtreet among the citizens: when news came of their advancing the cry of 'Treat and capitulate' was no leſs loud and vehement. The terror of an univerſal pillage, and even maſſacre, had ſeized the timid inhabitants.

THE ARMY SUBDUE THE PARLIAMENT.

As the army approached, Rainſborow, being ſent by the general over the river, preſented himſelf before Southwark, and was gladly received by ſome ſoldiers who were quartered there for its defence, and who were reſolved not to ſeparate their intereſts from thoſe of the army. It behoved then the parliament to ſubmit. The army marched in triumph through the city; but preſerved the greateſt order, decency, and appearance of humility. They conducted to Weſtminſter the two ſpeakers, who took their ſeats as if nothing had happened. The eleven impeached members, being accuſed as authors of the tumult, were expelled, and moſt of them retired beyond ſea; ſeven peers were impeached; the mayor, one ſheriff, and three aldermen, ſent to the tower; ſeveral citizens and officers of the militia committed to priſon; every deed of the parliament annulled, from the day of the tumult till the return of the ſpeakers; the lines about the city levelled; the militia reſtored to the independents; regiments quartered in Whitehall and the Meuſe; and, the parliament being reduced to a regular-formed ſervitude, a day

was appointed of ſolemn thankſgiving for the reſtoration of its liberty.°

The independent party among the commons exulted in their victory. The whole authority of the nation they imagined was now lodged in their hands; and they had a near proſpect of moulding the government into that imaginary republic which had long been the object of their wiſhes. They had ſecretly concurred in all encroachments of the military upon the civil power; and they expected, by the terror of the ſword, to impoſe a more perfect ſyſtem of liberty on the reluctant nation. All parties, the king, the church, the parliament, the preſbyterians, had been guilty of errors ſince the commencement of theſe diſorders: but it muſt be confeſſed that this deluſion of the independents and republicans was, of all others, the moſt contrary to common ſenſe and the eſtabliſhed maxims of policy. Yet were the leaders of that party, Vane, Fiennes, St. John, Martin, the men in England the moſt celebrated for profound thought and deep contrivance; and, by their well-coloured pretences and profeſſions, they had overreached the whole nation. To deceive ſuch men would argue a ſuperlative capacity in Cromwell, were it not that, beſides the great difference there is between dark, crooked counſels and true wiſdom, an exorbitant paſſion for rule and authority will make the moſt prudent overlook the dangerous conſequences of ſuch meaſures as ſeem to tend in any degree to their own advancement.

The leaders of the army, having eſtabliſhed their dominion over the parliament and city, ventured to bring the king to Hampton-court; and he lived for ſome time in that palace with an appearance of dignity and freedom. Such equability of temper did he poſſeſs, that, during all the variety of fortune which he underwent, no difference was perceived in his countenance or behaviour; and, though a priſoner in the hands of his moſt

inveterate enemies, he ſupported, towards all who approached him, the majeſty of a monarch, and that neither with leſs nor greater ſtate than he had been accuſtomed to maintain. His manner, which was not in itſelf popular nor gracious, now appeared amiable from its great meekneſs and equality.

The parliament renewed their applications to him, and preſented him with the ſame conditions which they had offered at Newcaſtle. The king declined accepting them, and deſired the parliament to take the propoſals of the army into conſideration, and make them the foundation of the public ſettlement.[p] He ſtill entertained hopes that his negociations with the generals would be crowned with ſucceſs, though every thing in that particular daily bore a worſe aſpect. Moſt hiſtorians have thought that Cromwell never was ſincere in his profeſſions; and that, having by force rendered himſelf maſter of the king's perſon, and by fair pretences acquired the countenance of the royaliſts, he had employed theſe advantages to the enſlaving of the parliament; and afterwards thought of nothing but the eſtabliſhment of his own unlimited authority, with which he eſteemed the reſtoration, and even life the king, altogether incompatible. This opinion, ſo much warranted by the boundleſs ambition and profound diſſimulation of his character, meets with ready belief; though it is more agreeable to the narrowneſs of human views, and the darkneſs of futurity, to ſuppoſe that this daring uſurper was guided by events, and did not as yet foreſee, with any aſſurance, that unparalleled greatneſs which he afterwards attained. Many writers of that age have aſſerted[q] that he really intended to make a private bargain with the king; a meaſure which carried the moſt plauſible appearance both for his ſafety and advancement; but that he found inſuperable difficulties in reconciling to it the wild humours of the army. The horror and antipathy of theſe fanatics had for many years been artfully

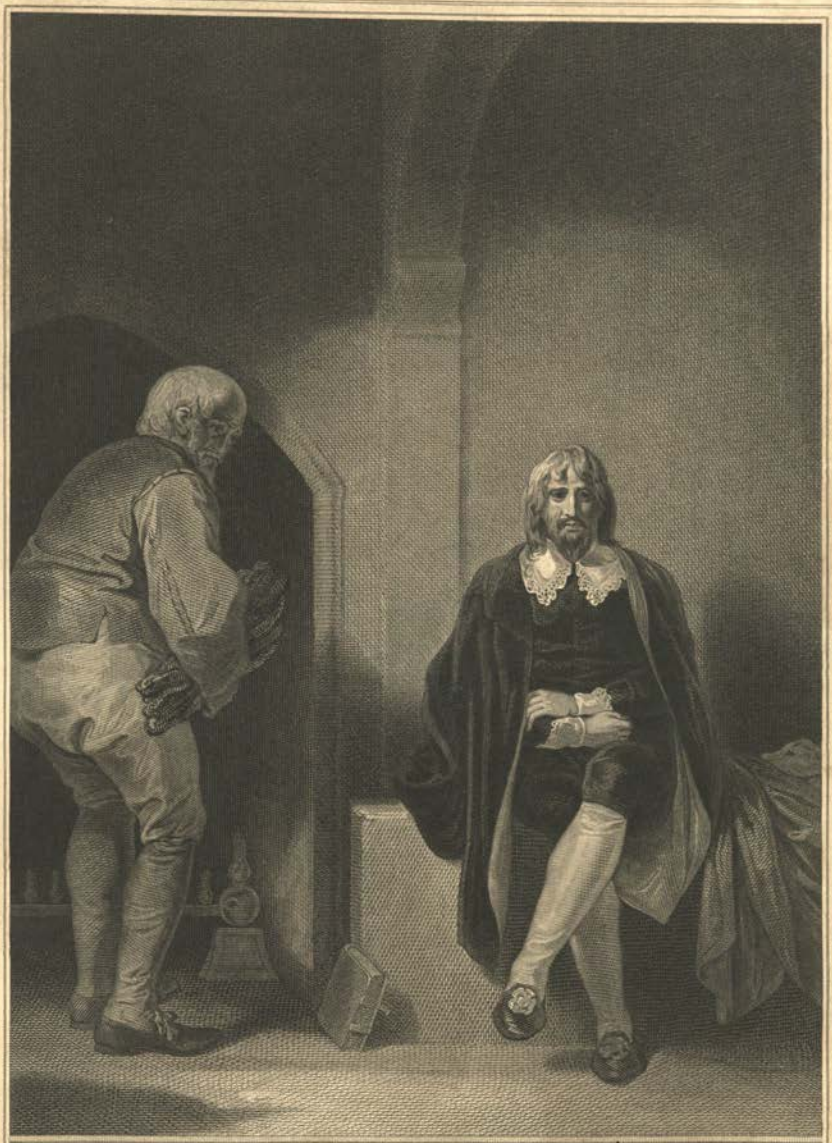
fomented againſt Charles; and, though their principles were on all occaſions eaſily warped and eluded by private intereſt, yet was ſome colouring requiſite; and a flat contradiction to all former profeſſions and tenets could not ſafely be propoſed to them. It is certain, at leaſt, that Cromwell made uſe of this reaſon why he admitted rarely of viſits from the king's friends, and ſhewed leſs favour than formerly to the royal cauſe. The agitators, he ſaid, had rendered him odious to the army, and had repreſented him as a traitor, who, for the ſake of private intereſt, was ready to betray the cauſe of God to the great enemy of piety and religion. Deſperate projects too he aſſerted to be ſecretly formed for the murder of the king; and he pretended much to dread leſt all his authority, and that of the commanding officers, would not be able to reſtrain theſe enthuſiaſts from their bloody purpoſes.[r]

Intelligence being daily brought to the king of menaces thrown out by the agitators, he began to think of retiring from Hampton-court, and of putting himſelf in ſome place of ſafety. The guards were doubled upon him; the promiſcuous concourſe of people reſtrained; a more jealous care exerted in attending his perſon; all under colour of protecting him from danger, but really with a view of making him uneaſy in his preſent ſituation. Theſe artifices ſoon produced the intended effect. Charles, who was naturally apt to be ſwayed by counſel, and who had not then acceſs to any good counſel, took ſuddenly a reſolution of withdrawing himſelf, though without any concerted, at leaſt any rational, ſcheme for the future diſpoſal of his perſon. Attended only by ſir John Berkeley, Aſhburnham, and Leg, he privately left Hampton-court; and his eſcape was not diſcovered till near an hour after; when thoſe who entered his chamber found on the table ſome letters directed to the parliament, to the general, and to the officer who had attended him.[s] All night

he travelled through the foreſt, and arrived next day at Tichfield, a ſeat of the earl of Southampton's, where the counteſs dowager reſided, a woman of honour, to whom the king knew he might ſafely intruſt his perſon. Before he arrived at this place he had gone to the ſea-coaſt, and expreſſed great anxiety that a ſhip which he ſeemed to look for had not arrived; and thence Berkeley and Leg, who were not in the ſecret, conjectured that his intention was to tranſport himſelf beyond ſea.

THE KING FLIES TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

The king could not hope to remain long concealed at Tichfield: what meaſure ſhould next be embraced was the queſtion. In the neighbourhood lay the iſle of Wight, of which Hammond was governor. This man was entirely dependent on Cromwell. At his recommendation he had married a daughter of the famous Hampden, who during his lifetime had been an intimate friend of Cromwell's, and whoſe memory was ever reſpected by him. Theſe circumſtances were very unfavourable; yet, becauſe the governor was nephew to Dr. Hammond, the king's favourite chaplain, and had acquired a good character in the army, it was thought proper to have recourſe to him, in the preſent exigence, when no other rational expedient could be thought of. Aſhburnham and Berkeley were diſpatched to the iſland: they had orders not to inform Hammond of the place where the king was concealed till they had firſt obtained a promiſe from him not to deliver up his majeſty, though the parliament and army ſhould require him; but to reſtore him to his liberty if he could not protect him. This promiſe, it is evident, would have been a very ſlender ſecurity; yet even without exacting it Aſhburnham, imprudently if not treacherouſly, brought Hammond to Tichfield; and the king was obliged to put himſelf in his hands,



CHARLES I. IMPRISONED IN CARISBROOK CASTLE

and to attend him to Cariſbroke caſtle in the iſle of Wight, where, though received with great demonſtrations of reſpect and duty, he was in reality a priſoner.

Lord Clarendon [t] is poſitive that the king, when he fled from Hampton-court, had no intention of going to this iſland; and indeed all the circumſtances of that hiſtorian's narrative, which we have here followed, ſtrongly favour this opinion. But there remains a letter of Charles's to the earl of Laneric, ſecretary of Scotland; in which he plainly intimates that that meaſure was voluntarily embraced; and even inſinuates that, if he had thought proper, he might have been in Jerſey or any other place of ſafety.[u] Perhaps he ſtill confided in the promiſes of the generals; and flattered himſelf that, if he were removed from the fury of the agitators, by which his life was immediately threatened, they would execute what they had ſo often promiſed in his favour.

Whatever may be the truth in this matter (for it is impoſſible fully to aſcertain the truth), Charles never took a weaker ſtep, nor one more agreeable to Cromwell and all his enemies. He was now lodged in a place, removed from his partiſans, at the diſpoſal of the army, whence it would be very difficult to deliver him either by force or artifice. And, though it was always in the power of Cromwell, whenever he pleaſed, to have ſent him thither, yet ſuch a meaſure, without the king's conſent, would have been very invidious, if not attended with ſome danger. That the king ſhould voluntarily throw himſelf into the ſnare, and thereby gratify his implacable perſecutors, was to them an incident peculiarly fortunate, and proved in the iſſue very fatal to him.

Cromwell being now entirely maſter of the parliament, and free from all anxiety with regard to the cuſtody of the king's perſon, applied himſelf ſeriouſly to quell thoſe diſorders in the

ringleaders before their companions; held in the field a council of war; ſhot one mutineer inſtantly; and ſtruck ſuch dread into the reſt, that they preſently threw down the ſymbols of ſedition, which they had diſplayed, and thenceforth returned to their wonted diſcipline and obedience.[x]

Cromwell had great deference for the counſels of Ireton; a man who, having grafted the ſoldier on the lawyer, the ſtateſman on the ſaint, had adopted ſuch principles as were fitted to introduce the ſevereſt tyranny, while they ſeemed to encourage the moſt unbounded licenſe in human ſociety. Fierce in his nature, though probably ſincere in his intentions, he purpoſed by arbitrary power to eſtabliſh liberty, and, in proſecution of his imagined religious purpoſes, he thought himſelf diſpenſed from all the ordinary rules of morality by which inferior mortals muſt allow themſelves to be governed. From his ſuggeſtion Cromwell ſecretly called at Windſor a council of the chief officers, in order to deliberate concerning the ſettlement of the nation, and the future diſpoſal of the king's perſon.[y] In this conference, which commenced with devout prayers, poured forth by Cromwell himſelf and other inſpired perſons (for the officers of this army received inſpiration with their commiſſion), was firſt opened the daring and unheard-of counſel of bringing the king to juſtice, and of puniſhing, by a judicial ſentence, their ſovereign, for his pretended tyranny and mal-adminiſtration. While Charles lived, even though reſtrained to the cloſeſt priſon, conſpiracies, they knew, and inſurrections, would never be wanting in favour of a prince who was ſo extremely revered and beloved by his own party, and whom the nation in general began to regard with great affection and compaſſion. To murder him privately was expoſed to the imputation of injuſtice and cruelty, aggravated by the baſeneſs of ſuch a crime; and every odious epithet of Traitor and Aſſaſſin would, by the general voice

of mankind, be undiſputably aſcribed to the actors in ſuch a villany. Some unexpected procedure muſt be attempted, which would aſtoniſh the world by its novelty, would bear the ſemblance of juſtice, and would cover its barbarity by the audaciouſneſs of the enterpriſe. Striking in with the fanatical notions of the entire equality of mankind, it would enſure the devoted obedience of the army, and ſerve as a general engagement againſt the royal family, whom, by their open and united deed, they would ſo heinouſly affront and injure.[z]

This meaſure, therefore, being ſecretly reſolved on, it was requiſite by degrees to make the parliament adopt it, and to conduct them from violence to violence; till this laſt act of atrocious iniquity ſhould ſeem in a manner wholly inevitable. The king, in order to remove thoſe fears and jealouſies which were perpetually pleaded as reaſons for every invaſion of the conſtitution, had offered, by a meſſage ſent from Cariſbroke caſtle, to reſign, during his own life, the power of the militia and the nomination to all the great offices; provided that, after his demiſe, theſe prerogatives ſhould revert to the crown.[a] But the parliament acted entirely as victors and enemies; and, in all their tranſactions with him, payed no longer any regard to equity or reaſon. At the inſtigation of the independents and army, they neglected this offer, and framed four propoſals, which they ſent him as preliminaries; and, before they would deign to treat, they demanded his poſitive aſſent to all of them. By one he was required to inveſt the parliament with the military power for twenty years, together with an authority to levy whatever money ſhould be neceſſary for exerciſing it: and, even after the twenty years ſhould be elapſed, they reſerved a right of reſuming the ſame authority whenever they ſhould declare the ſafety of the kingdom to require it. By the ſecond he was to recall all his proclamations and declarations againſt the parliament.

and acknowledge that aſſembly to have taken arms in their juſt and neceſſary defence. By the third he was to annul all the acts, and void all the patents of peerage, which had paſſed the great ſeal, ſince it had been carried from London by lord-keeper Littleton; and at the ſame time, renounce for the future the power of making peers without conſent of parliament. By the fourth he gave the two houſes power to adjourn as they thought proper: a demand ſeemingly of no great importance; but contrived by the independents, that they might be able to remove the parliament to places where it ſhould remain in perpetual ſubjection to the army.[b]

The king regarded the pretenſion as unuſual and exorbitant, that he ſhould make ſuch conceſſions while not ſecure of any ſettlement; and ſhould blindly truſt his enemies for the conditions which they were afterwards to grant him. He required, therefore, a perſonal treaty with the parliament, and deſired that all the terms on both ſides ſhould be adjuſted, before any conceſſion, on either ſide, ſhould be inſiſted on. The republican party in the houſe pretended to take fire at this anſwer; and openly inveighed, in violent terms, againſt the perſon and government of the king; whoſe name hitherto had commonly, in all debates, been mentioned with ſome degree of reverence. Ireton, ſeeming to ſpeak the ſenſe of the army, under the appellation of many thouſand godly men, who had ventured their lives in defence of the parliament, ſaid, that the king, by denying the four bills, had refuſed ſafety and protection to his people; that their obedience to him was but a reciprocal duty for his protection of them; and that, as he had failed on his part, they were freed from all obligations to allegiance, and muſt ſettle the nation without conſulting any longer ſo miſguided a prince.[c] Cromwell, after giving an ample character of the valour, good affections, and godlineſs of the army, ſubjoined, that it

was expected the parliament ſhould guide and defend the kingdom by their own power and reſolutions, and not accuſtom the people any longer to expect ſafety and government from an obſtinate man, whoſe heart God had hardened; that thoſe, who at the expenſe of their blood had hitherto defended the parliament from ſo many dangers, would ſtill continue, with fidelity and courage, to protect them againſt all oppoſition in this vigorous meaſure. 'Teach them not,' added he, 'by your neglecting your own ſafety and that of the kingdom (in which theirs too is involved), to imagine themſelves betrayed, and their intereſts abandoned to the rage and malice of an irreconcileable enemy, whom, for your ſake, they have dared to provoke. Beware,' (and at theſe words he laid his hand on his ſword) 'beware, leſt deſpair cauſe them to ſeek ſafety by ſome other means than by adhering to you,[d] who know not how to conſult your own ſafety.' Such arguments prevailed; though ninety-one members had ſtill the courage to oppoſe. It was voted that no more addreſſes be made to the king, nor any letters or meſſages be received from him; and that it be treaſon for any one, without leave of the two houſes, to have any intercourſe with him. The lords concurred in the ſame ordinance.[e]

By this vote of non-addreſſes, ſo it was called, the king was in reality dethroned, and the whole conſtitution formally overthrown. So violent a meaſure was ſupported by a declaration of the commons no leſs violent. The blackeſt calumnies were there thrown upon the king; ſuch as, even in their famous remonſtrance, they thought proper to omit, as incredible and extravagant; the poiſoning of his father, the betraying of Rochelle, the contriving of the Iriſh maſſacre.[f] By blaſting his fame, had that injury been in their power, they formed a very proper prelude to the executing of violence on his perſon.

No ſooner had the king refuſed his aſſent to the four bills than Hammond, by orders from the army, removed all his ſervants, cut off his correſpondence with his friends, and ſhut him up in cloſe confinement. The king afterwards ſhewed to ſir Philip Warwick a decrepid old man, who he ſaid was employed to kindle his fire, and was the beſt company he enjoyed, during ſeveral months that this rigorous confinement laſted.[g] No amuſement was allowed him, nor ſociety, which might relieve his anxious thoughts; to be ſpeedily poiſoned or aſſaſſinated was the only proſpect which he had every moment before his eyes; for he entertained no apprehenſion of a judicial ſentence and execution; an event of which no hiſtory hitherto furniſhed an example. Meanwhile the parliament was very induſtrious in publiſhing, from time to time, the intelligence which they received from Hammond; how cheerful the king was, how pleaſed with every one that approached him, how ſatisfied in his preſent condition:[h] as if the view of ſuch benignity and conſtancy had not been more proper to inflame than allay the general compaſſion of the people. The great ſource whence the king derived conſolation, amidſt all his calamities, was undoubtedly religion; a principle which in him ſeems to have contained nothing fierce or gloomy, nothing which enraged him againſt his adverſaries, or terrified him with the diſmal proſpect of futurity. While every thing around him bore a hoſtile aſpect; while friends, family, relations, whom he paſſionately loved, were placed at a diſtance, and unable to ſerve him; he repoſed himſelf with confidence in the arms of that Being who penetrates and ſuſtains all nature, and whoſe ſeverities, if received with piety and reſignation, he regarded as the ſureſt pledges of unexhauſted favour.

SECOND CIVIL WAR. 1648.

THE parliament and army meanwhile enjoyed not in tranquillity that power which they had obtained with ſo much violence and injuſtice. Combinations and conſpiracies, they were ſenſible, were every where forming around them; and Scotland, whence the king's cauſe had received the firſt fatal diſaſter, ſeemed now to promiſe its ſupport and aſſiſtance.

Before the ſurrender of the king's perſon at Newark, and much more ſince that event, the ſubjects of diſcontent had been daily multiplying between the two kingdoms. The independents, who began to prevail, took all occaſions of mortifying the Scots, whom the preſbyterians looked on with the greateſt affection and veneration. When the Scottiſh commiſſioners, who, joined to a committee of Engliſh lords and commons, had managed the war, were ready to depart, it was propoſed in parliament to give them thanks for their civilities and good offices. The independents inſiſted that the words 'good offices' ſhould be ſtruck out; and thus the whole brotherly friendſhip and intimate alliance with the Scots reſolved itſelf into an acknowledgment of their being well-bred gentlemen.

The advance of the army to London, the ſubjection of the parliament, the ſeizing of the king at Holdenby, his confinement in Cariſbroke caſtle, were ſo many blows ſenſibly felt by that nation, as threatening the final overthrow of preſbytery, to which they were ſo paſſionately devoted. The covenant was profanely called, in the houſe of commons, an almanac out of date;[1] and that impiety, though complained of, had paſſed uncenſured. Inſtead of being able to determine and eſtabliſh orthodoxy by the ſword and by penal ſtatutes, they ſaw the ſectarian army, who were abſolute maſters, claim an unbounded liberty of con-

ſcience, which the preſbyterians regarded with the utmoſt abhorrence. All the violences put on the king they loudly blamed, as repugnant to the covenant, by which they ſtood engaged to defend his royal perſon. And thoſe very actions, of which they themſelves had been guilty, they denominated treaſon and rebellion when executed by an oppoſite party.

The earls of Loudon, Lauderdale, and Laneric, who were ſent to London, proteſted againſt the four bills, as containing too great a diminution of the king's civil power, and providing no ſecurity for religion. They complained that, notwithſtanding this proteſtation, the bills were ſtill inſiſted on, contrary to the ſolemn league, and to the treaty between the two nations; and, when they accompanied the Engliſh commiſſioners to the iſle of Wight, they ſecretly formed a treaty with the king for arming Scotland in his favour.[k]

INVASION FROM SCOTLAND.

THREE parties at that time prevailed in Scotland: the Royaliſts, who inſiſted upon the reſtoration of the king's authority, without any regard to religious ſects or tenets; of theſe Montroſe, though abſent, was regarded as the head: the Rigid Preſbyterians, who hated the king even more than they abhorred toleration, and who determined to give him no aſſiſtance till he ſhould ſubſcribe the covenant; theſe were governed by Argyle: the Moderate Preſbyterians, who endeavoured to reconcile the intereſts of religion and of the crown, and hoped, by ſupporting the preſbyterian party in England, to ſuppreſs the ſectarian army, and to reinſtate the parliament, as well as the king, in their juſt freedom and authority; the two brothers, Hamilton and Laneric, were leaders of this party.

When Pendennis caſtle was ſurrendered to the parliamentary army, Hamilton, who then obtained his liberty, returned into Scotland; and, being generouſly determined to remember ancient favours more than recent injuries, he immediately embraced, with zeal and ſucceſs, the protection of the royal cauſe. He obtained a vote from the Scottiſh parliament to arm forty thouſand men in ſupport of the king's authority, and to call over a conſiderable body under Monro, who commanded the Scottiſh forces in Ulſter; and, though he openly proteſted that the covenant was the foundation of all his meaſures, he ſecretly entered into correſpondence with the Engliſh royaliſts, ſir Marmaduke Langdale and ſir Philip Muſgrave, who had levied conſiderable forces in the north of England.

The general aſſembly, who ſat at the ſame time, and was guided by Argyle, dreaded the conſequence of theſe meaſures, and foreſaw that the oppoſite party, if ſucceſsful, would effect the reſtoration of monarchy, without the eſtabliſhment of preſbytery, in England. To join the king before he had ſubſcribed the covenant was, in their eyes, to reſtore him to his honour before Chriſt had obtained his;[1] and they thundered out anathemas againſt every one who paid obedience to the parliament. Two ſupreme independent judicatures were erected in the kingdom; one threatening the people with damnation and eternal torments, the other with impriſonment, baniſhment, and military execution. The people were diſtracted in their choice; and the armament of Hamilton's party, though ſeconded by all the civil power, went on but ſlowly. The royaliſts he would not as yet allow to join him, leſt he might give offence to the eccleſiaſtical party; though he ſecretly promiſed them truſt and preferment as ſoon as his army ſhould advance into England.

While the Scots were making preparations for the invaſion of England every part of that kingdom was agitated with tumults,

inſurrections, conſpiracies, diſcontents. It is ſeldom that the people gain any thing by revolutions in government; becauſe the new ſettlement, jealous and inſecure, muſt commonly be ſupported with more expenſe and ſeverity than the old: but on no occaſion was the truth of this maxim more ſenſibly felt than in the preſent ſituation of England. Complaints againſt the oppreſſion of ſhip money, againſt the tyranny of the ſtar chamber, had rouſed the people to arms: and, having gained a complete victory over the crown, they found themſelves loaded with a multiplicity of taxes, formerly unknown; and ſcarcely an appearance of law and liberty remained in the adminiſtration. The preſbyterians, who had chiefly ſupported the war, were enraged to find the prize, juſt when it ſeemed within their reach, ſnatched by violence from them. The royaliſts, diſappointed in their expectations by the cruel treatment which the king now received from the army, were ſtrongly animated to reſtore him to liberty, and to recover the advantages which they had unfortunately loſt. All orders of men were inflamed with indignation at ſeeing the military prevail over the civil power, and king and parliament at once reduced to ſubjection by a mercenary army. Many perſons of family and diſtinction had, from the beginning of the war, adhered to the parliament: but all theſe were, by the new party, deprived of authority; and every office was intruſted to the moſt ignoble part of the nation. A baſe populace exalted above their ſuperiors; hypocrites exerciſing iniquity under the vizor of religion: theſe circumſtances promiſed not much liberty or lenity to the people; and theſe were now found united in the ſame uſurped and illegal adminiſtration.

Though the whole nation ſeemed to combine in their hatred of military tyranny, the ends which the ſeveral parties purſued were ſo different, that little concert was obſerved in their inſurrections. Langhorne, Poyer, and Powel, preſbyterian officers,

who commanded bodies of troops in Wales, were the firſt that declared themſelves; and they drew together a conſiderable army in thoſe parts, which were extremely devoted to the royal cauſe. An inſurrection was raiſed in Kent by young Hales and the earl of Norwich. Lord Capel, ſir Charles Lucas, ſir George Liſle, excited commotions in Eſſex. The earl of Holland, who had ſeveral times changed ſides ſince the commencement of the civil wars, endeavoured to aſſemble forces in Surrey. Pomfret caſtle in Yorkſhire was ſurpriſed by Maurice. Langdale and Muſgrave were in arms, and maſters of Berwick and Carliſle in the north.

What ſeemed the moſt dangerous circumſtance, the general ſpirit of diſcontent had ſeized the fleet. Seventeen ſhips, lying in the mouth of the river, declared for the king; and, putting Rainſborow their admiral aſhore, ſailed over to Holland, where the prince of Wales took the command of them.[m]

The Engliſh royaliſts exclaimed loudly againſt Hamilton's delays, which they attributed to a refined policy in the Scots; as if their intentions were that all the king's party ſhould firſt be ſuppreſſed, and the victory remain ſolely to the preſbyterians. Hamilton, with better reaſon, complained of the precipitate humour of the Engliſh royaliſts, who by their ill-timed inſurrections forced him to march his army before his levies were completed, or his preparations in any forwardneſs.

No commotions beyond a tumult of the apprentices, which was ſoon ſuppreſſed, were raiſed in London: the terror of the army kept the citizens in ſubjection. The parliament was ſo overawed, that they declared the Scots to be enemies, and all who joined them traitors. Ninety members, however, of the lower houſe had the courage to diſſent from this vote.

Cromwell and the military council prepared themſelves with vigour and conduct for defence. The eſtabliſhment of the army

was at this time twenty-ſix thouſand men; but, by inliſting ſupernumeraries, the regiments were greatly augmented, and commonly conſiſted of more than double [n] their ſtated complement. Colonel Horton firſt attacked the revolted troops in Wales, and gave them a conſiderable defeat. The remnants of the vanquiſhed threw themſelves into Pembroke, and were there cloſely beſieged, and ſoon after taken, by Cromwell. Lambert was oppoſed to Langdale and Muſgrave in the north, and gained advantages over them. Sir Michael Liveſey defeated the earl of Holland at Kingſton, and, purſuing his victory, took him priſoner at St. Neots. Fairfax, having routed the Kentiſh royaliſts at Maidſtone, followed the broken army; and, when they joined the royaliſts of Eſſex, and threw themſelves into Colcheſter, he laid ſiege to that place, which defended itſelf to the laſt extremity. A new fleet was manned, and ſent out under the command of Warwick, to oppoſe the revolted ſhips, of which the prince had taken the command.

While the forces were employed in all quarters the parliament regained its liberty, and began to act with its wonted courage and ſpirit. The members who had withdrawn, from terror of the army, returned; and, infuſing boldneſs into their companions, reſtored to the preſbyterian party the aſcendant, which it had formerly loſt. The eleven impeached members were recalled, and the vote by which they were expelled was reverſed. The vote too of non-addreſſes was repealed; and commiſſioners, five peers and ten commoners, were ſent to Newport, in the iſle of Wight, in order to treat with the king.[o] He was allowed to ſummon ſeveral of his friends and old counſellors, that he might have their advice [p] in this important tranſaction. The theologians on both ſides, armed with their ſyllogiſms and quotations, attended as auxiliaries.[q] By them the flame had firſt been raiſed, and their appearance was but a bad prognoſtic of

its extinction; any other inſtruments ſeemed better adapted for a treaty of pacification.

TREATY OF NEWPORT.

When the king preſented himſelf to this company a great and ſenſible alteration was remarked in his aſpect, from what it appeared the year before, when he reſided at Hampton-court. The moment his ſervants had been removed he had laid aſide all care of his perſon, and had allowed his beard and hair to grow, and to hang diſhevelled and neglected. His hair was become almoſt entirely grey, either from the decline of years, or from that load of ſorrows under which he laboured, and which, though born with conſtancy, preyed inwardly on his ſenſible and tender mind. His friends beheld with compaſſion, and perhaps even his enemies, that 'grey and diſcrowned head,' as he himſelf terms it in a copy of verſes, which the truth of the ſentiment rather than any elegance of expreſſion renders very pathetic.[r] Having in vain endeavoured by courage to defend his throne from his armed adverſaries, it now behoved him, by reaſoning and perſuaſion, to ſave ſome fragments of it from theſe peaceful, and no leſs implacable, negociators.

The vigour of the king's mind, notwithſtanding the ſeeming decline of his body, here appeared unbroken and undecayed. The parliamentary commiſſioners would allow none of his counſel to be preſent, and refuſed to enter into reaſoning with any but himſelf. He alone, during the tranſactions of two months, was obliged to maintain the argument againſt fifteen men of the greateſt parts and capacity in both houſes; and no advantage was ever obtained over him.[s] This was the ſcene, above all others, in which he was qualified to excel. A quick conception, a cultivated underſtanding, a chaſte elocution, a dignified

manner; by theſe accompliſhments he triumphed in all diſcuſſions of cool and temperate reaſoning. 'The king is much changed,' ſaid the earl of Saliſbury to ſir Philip Warwick; 'he is extremely improved of late.' 'No,' replied ſir Philip, 'he was always ſo; 'but you are now at laſt ſenſible of it.' Sir Henry Vane, diſcourſing with his fellow commiſſioners, drew an argument from the king's uncommon abilities why the terms of pacification muſt be rendered more ſtrict and rigid.[a] But Charles's capacity ſhone not equally in action as in reaſoning.

The firſt point, inſiſted on by the parliamentary commiſſioners, was the king's recalling all his proclamations and declarations againſt the parliament, and the acknowledging that they had taken arms in their own defence. He frankly offered the former conceſſion, but long ſcrupled the latter. The falſehood, as well as indignity, of that acknowledgment begat in his breaſt an extreme reluctance againſt it. The king had, no doubt, in ſome particulars of moment, invaded, from a ſeeming neceſſity, the privileges of his people: but, having renounced all claim to theſe uſurped powers, having confeſſed his errors, and having repaired every breach in the conſtitution, and even erected new ramparts in order to ſecure it, he could no longer, at the commencement of the war, be repreſented as the aggreſſor. However it might be pretended that the former diſplay of his arbitrary inclinations, or rather his monarchical principles, rendered an offenſive or preventive war in the parliament prudent and reaſonable, it could never, in any propriety of ſpeech, make it be termed a defenſive one. But the parliament, ſenſible that the letter of the law condemned them as rebels and traitors, deemed this point abſolutely neceſſary for their future ſecurity: and the king, finding that peace could be obtained on no other terms, at laſt yielded to it. He only entered a proteſt, which was admitted, that no conceſſion made by him

ſhould be valid unleſs the whole treaty of pacification were concluded.[w]

He agreed that the parliament ſhould retain, during the term of twenty years, the power over the militia and army, and that of levying what money they pleaſed for their ſupport. He even yielded to them the right of reſuming, at any time afterwards, this authority, whenever they ſhould declare ſuch a reſumption neceſſary for public ſafety. In effect, the important power of the ſword was for ever raviſhed from him and his ſucceſſors.[x]

He agreed that all the great offices, during twenty years, ſhould be filled by both houſes of parliament.[y] He relinquiſhed to them the entire government of Ireland, and the conduct of the war there.[z] He renounced the power of the wards, and accepted of one hundred thouſand pounds a year [a] in lieu of it. He acknowledged the validity of their great ſeal, and gave up his own.[b] He abandoned the power of creating peers without conſent of parliament; and he agreed that all the debts, contracted in order to ſupport the war againſt him, ſhould be paid by the people.

So great were the alterations made on the Engliſh conſtitution by this treaty, that the king ſaid, not without reaſon, that he had been more an enemy to his people by theſe conceſſions, could he have prevented them, than by any other action of his life.

Of all the demands of the parliament Charles refuſed only two. Though he relinquiſhed almoſt every power of the crown, he would neither give up his friends to puniſhment, nor deſert what he eſteemed his religious duty. The ſevere repentance, which he had undergone, for abandoning Strafford, had, no doubt, confirmed him in the reſolution never again to be guilty of a like error. His long ſolitude and ſevere afflictions had contributed to rivet him the more in thoſe religious principles,

which had ever a conſiderable influence over him. His deſire, however, of finiſhing an accommodation induced him to go as far in both theſe particulars as he thought anywiſe conſiſtent with his duty.

The eſtates of the royaliſts being at that time almoſt entirely under ſequeſtration, Charles, who could give them no protection, conſented that they ſhould pay ſuch compoſitions as they and the parliament could agree on; and only begged that they might be made as moderate as poſſible. He had not the diſpoſal of offices; and it ſeemed but a ſmall ſacrifice to conſent that a certain number of his friends ſhould be rendered incapable of public employments.[c] But, when the parliament demanded a bill of attainder and baniſhment againſt ſeven perſons, the marquis of Newcaſtle, lord Digby, lord Biron, ſir Marmaduke Langdale, ſir Richard Granville, ſir Francis Doddington, and judge Jenkins, the king abſolutely refuſed compliance: their baniſhment for a limited time he was willing to agree to.[d]

Religion was the fatal point about which the differences had ariſen; and of all others it was the leaſt ſuſceptible of compoſition or moderation between the contending parties. The parliament inſiſted on the eſtabliſhment of preſbytery, the ſale of the chapter lands, the abolition of all forms of prayer, and ſtrict laws againſt catholics. The king offered to retrench every thing which he did not eſteem of apoſtolical inſtitution; he was willing to aboliſh archbiſhops, deans, prebends, canons; he offered that the chapter lands ſhould be let at low leaſes during ninety-nine years; he conſented that the preſent church government ſhould continue during three years;[e] after that time he required not that any thing ſhould be reſtored to biſhops but the power of ordination, and even that power to be exerciſed by advice of the preſbyters.[f] If the parliament, upon the expiration of that period, ſtill inſiſted on their demand, all other branches of

epiſcopal juriſdiction were aboliſhed, and a new form of church government muſt, by common conſent, be eſtabliſhed. The book of common prayer he was willing to renounce, but required the liberty of uſing ſome other liturgy in his own chapel:[g] a demand which, though ſeemingly reaſonable, was poſitively refuſed by the parliament.

In the diſpute on theſe articles one is not ſurpriſed that two of the parliamentary theologians ſhould tell the king that, if he did not conſent to the utter abolition of epiſcopacy, he would be damned. But it is not without ſome indignation that we read the following vote of the lords and commons: 'The houſes, out of their deteſtation to that abominable idolatry uſed in the maſs, do declare that they cannot admit of, or conſent unto, any ſuch indulgence in any law, as is deſired by his majeſty, for exempting the queen and her family from the penalties to be enacted againſt the exerciſe [h] of the maſs.' The treaty of marriage, the regard to the queen's ſex and high ſtation, even common humanity; all conſiderations were undervalued in compariſon of their bigoted prejudices.[i]

It was evidently the intereſt, both of king and parliament, to finiſh their treaty with all expedition; and endeavour, by their combined force, to reſiſt, if poſſible, the uſurping fury of the army. It ſeemed even the intereſt of the parliament to leave in the king's hand a conſiderable ſhare of authority, by which he might be enabled to protect them and himſelf from ſo dangerous an enemy. But the terms on which they inſiſted were ſo rigorous, that the king, fearing no worſe from the moſt implacable enemies, was in no haſte to come to a concluſion. And ſo great was the bigotry on both ſides, that they were willing to ſacrifice the greateſt civil intereſts rather than relinquiſh the moſt minute of their theological contentions. From theſe cauſes, aſſiſted by the artifice of the independents, the treaty was ſpun

out to ſuch a length, that the invaſions and inſurrections were every where ſubdued, and the army had leiſure to execute their violent and ſanguinary purpoſes.

CIVIL WAR AND INVASION REPRESSED.

HAMILTON, having entered England with a numerous, although undiſciplined, army, durſt not unite his forces with thoſe of Langdale, becauſe the Engliſh royaliſts had refuſed to take the covenant, and the Scottiſh preſbyterians, though engaged for the king, refuſed to join them on any other terms. The two armies marched together, though at ſome diſtance; nor could even the approach of the parliamentary army, under Cromwell, oblige the covenanters to conſult their own ſafety by a cloſe union with the royaliſts. When principles are ſo abſurd and ſo deſtructive of human ſociety, it may ſafely be averred that, the more ſincere and the more diſintereſted they are, they only become the more ridiculous and more odious.

Cromwell feared not to oppoſe eight thouſand men to the numerous armies of twenty thouſand, commanded by Hamilton and Langdale. He attacked the latter by ſurpriſe, near Preſton in Lancaſhire;[k] and, though the royaliſts made a brave reſiſtance, yet, not being ſuccoured in time by their confederates, they were almoſt entirely cut in pieces. Hamilton was next attacked, put to rout, and purſued to Uttoxeter, where he ſurrendered himſelf priſoner. Cromwell followed his advantage; and, marching into Scotland with a conſiderable body, joined Argyle, who was alſo in arms; and, having ſuppreſſed Laneric, Monro, and other moderate preſbyterians, he placed the power entirely in the hands of the violent party. The eccleſiaſtical authority, exalted above the civil, exerciſed the ſevereſt vengeance on all who had a ſhare in Hamilton's engagement, as it

was called; nor could any of that party recover truſt, or even live in ſafety, but by doing ſolemn and public penance for taking arms, by authority of parliament, in defence of their lawful ſovereign.

The chancellor Loudon, who had at firſt countenanced Hamilton's enterpriſe, being terrified with the menaces of the clergy, had ſome time before gone over to the other party; and he now openly in the church, though inveſted with the higheſt civil character in the kingdom, did penance for his obedience to the parliament, which he termed a carnal ſelf-ſeeking. He accompanied his penance with ſo many tears, and ſuch pathetical addreſſes to the people for their prayers in this his uttermoſt ſorrow and diſtreſs, that an univerſal weeping and lamentation took place among the deluded audience.[l]

The loan of great ſums of money, often to the ruin of families, was exacted from all ſuch as lay under any ſuſpicion of favouring the king's party, though their conduct had been ever ſo inoffenſive. This was a device fallen upon by the ruling party in order, as they ſaid, to reach Heart Malignants.[m] Never, in this iſland, was known a more ſevere and arbitrary government than was generally exerciſed by the patrons of liberty in both kingdoms.

The ſiege of Colcheſter terminated in a manner no leſs unfortunate than Hamilton's engagement for the royal cauſe. After ſuffering the utmoſt extremities of famine, after feeding on the vileſt aliments, the garriſon deſired at laſt to capitulate. Fairfax required them to ſurrender at diſcretion; and he gave ſuch an explanation to theſe terms as to reſerve to himſelf power, if he pleaſed, to put them all inſtantly to the ſword. The officers endeavoured, though in vain, to perſuade the ſoldiers, by making a vigorous ſally, to break through, at leaſt to ſell their lives as dear as poſſible. They were obliged[n] to accept of the conditions

offered; and Fairfax, inſtigated by Ireton, to whom Cromwell, in his abſence, had conſigned over the government of the paſſive general, ſeized ſir Charles Lucas and ſir George Liſle, and reſolved to make them inſtant ſacrifices to military juſtice. This unuſual ſeverity was loudly exclaimed againſt by all the priſoners. Lord Capel, fearleſs of danger, reproached Ireton with it; and challenged him, as they were all engaged in the ſame honourable cauſe, to exerciſe the ſame impartial vengeance on all of them. Lucas was firſt ſhot; and he himſelf gave orders to fire with the ſame alacrity as if he had commanded a platoon of his own ſoldiers. Liſle inſtantly ran and kiſſed the dead body, then cheerfully preſented himſelf to a like fate. Thinking that the ſoldiers deſtined for his execution ſtood at too great a diſtance, he called to them to come nearer. One of them replied, 'I'll warrant you, ſir, we'll hit you.' He anſwered, ſmiling, 'Friends, I have been nearer you when you have miſſed me.' Thus periſhed this generous ſpirit, not leſs beloved for his modeſty and humanity than eſteemed for his courage and military conduct.

Soon after, a gentleman appearing in the king's preſence clothed in mourning for ſir Charles Lucas, that humane prince, ſuddenly recollecting the hard fate of his friends, paid them a tribute which none of his own unparalleled misfortunes ever extorted from him; he diſſolved into a flood of tears.°

THE KING SEIZED AGAIN BY THE ARMY.

By theſe multiplied ſucceſſes of the army, they had ſubdued all their enemies; and none remained, but the helpleſs king and parliament, to oppoſe their violent meaſures. From Cromwell's ſuggeſtion a remonſtrance was drawn by the council of general officers, and ſent to the parliament. They there complain of

the treaty with the king; demand his puniſhment for the blood ſpilt during the war; require a diſſolution of the preſent parliament, and a more equal repreſentation for the future; and aſſert that, though ſervants, they are entitled to repreſent theſe important points to their maſters, who are themſelves no better than ſervants and truſtees of the people. At the ſame time they advanced with the army to Windſor, and ſent colonel Eure to ſeize the king's perſon at Newport, and convey him to Hurſt caſtle in the neighbourhood, where he was detained in ſtrict confinement.

This meaſure being foreſeen ſome time before, the king was exhorted to make his eſcape, which was conceived to be very eaſy: but, having given his word to the parliament not to attempt the recovery of his liberty during the treaty, and three weeks after, he would not, by any perſuaſion, be induced to hazard the reproach of violating that promiſe. In vain was it urged that a promiſe given to the parliament could no longer be binding, ſince they could no longer afford him protection from violence, threatened him by other perſons, to whom he was bound by no tie or engagement. The king would indulge no refinements of caſuiſtry, however plauſible, in ſuch delicate ſubjects; and was reſolved that, what depredations ſoever fortune ſhould commit upon him, ſhe never ſhould bereave him of his honour.[P]

The parliament loſt not courage, notwithſtanding the danger with which they were ſo nearly menaced. Though without any plan for reſiſting military uſurpations, they reſolved to withſtand them to the uttermoſt; and rather to bring on a violent and viſible ſubverſion of government, than lend their authority to thoſe illegal and ſanguinary meaſures which were projected. They ſet aſide the remonſtrance of the army, without deigning to anſwer it; they voted the ſeizing of the king's perſon to be

without their conſent, and ſent a meſſage to the general to know by what authority that enterpriſe had been executed; and they iſſued orders that the army ſhould advance no nearer to London.

Hollis, the preſent leader of the preſbyterians, was a man of unconquerable intrepidity; and many others of that party ſeconded his magnanimous ſpirit. It was propoſed by them that the generals and principal officers ſhould, for their diſobedience and uſurpations, be proclaimed traitors by the parliament.

But the parliament was dealing with men who would not be frightened by words, nor retarded by any ſcrupulous delicacy. The generals, under the name of Fairfax (for he ſtill allowed them to employ his name), marched the army to London, and, placing guards in Whitehall, the Meuſe, St. James's, Durham-houſe, Covent-garden, and Palace-yard, ſurrounded the parliament with their hoſtile armaments.

THE HOUSE PURGED.

THE parliament, deſtitute of all hopes of prevailing, retained, however, courage to reſiſt. They attempted, in the face of the army, to cloſe their treaty with the king; and, though they had formerly voted his conceſſions with regard to the church and delinquents to be unſatisfactory, they now took into conſideration the final reſolution with regard to the whole. After a violent debate of three days it was carried by a majority of one hundred and twenty-nine againſt eighty-three in the houſe of commons, that the king's conceſſions were a foundation for the houſes to proceed upon in the ſettlement of the kingdom.

Next day, when the commons were to meet, colonel Pride, formerly a drayman, had environed the houſe with two regiments; and, directed by lord Grey of Groby, he ſeized in the

paſſage forty-one members of the preſbyterian party, and ſent them to a low room, which paſſed by the appellation of 'hell,' whence they were afterwards carried to ſeveral inns. Above one hundred and ſixty members more were excluded; and none were allowed to enter but the moſt furious and moſt determined of the independents; and theſe exceeded not the number of fifty or ſixty. This invaſion of the parliament commonly paſſed under the name of 'colonel Pride's purge;' ſo much diſpoſed was the nation to make merry with the dethroning of thoſe members, who had violently arrogated the whole authority of government, and deprived the king of his legal prerogatives.

The ſubſequent proceedings of the parliament, if this diminutive aſſembly deſerve that honourable name, retain not the leaſt appearance of law, equity, or freedom. They inſtantly reverſed the former vote, and declared the king's conceſſions unſatisfactory. They determined that no member, abſent at this laſt vote, ſhould be received till he ſubſcribed it as agreeable to his judgment. They renewed their former vote of non-addreſſes: and they committed to priſon ſir William Waller, ſir John Clotworthy, the generals Maſſey, Brown, Copley, and other leaders of the preſbyterians. Theſe men, by their credit and authority, which was then very high, had, at the commencement of the war, ſupported the parliament, and thereby prepared the way for the greatneſs of the preſent leaders, who, at that time, were of ſmall account in the nation.

The ſecluded members having publiſhed a paper, containing a narrative of the violence which had been exerciſed upon them, and a proteſtation that all acts were void which from that time had been tranſacted in the houſe of commons, the remaining members encountered it with a declaration, in which they pronounced it falſe, ſcandalous, ſeditious, and tending to the deſtruction of the viſible and fundamental government of the kingdom.

Theſe ſudden and violent revolutions held the whole nation in terror and aſtoniſhment. Every man dreaded to be trampled under foot, in the contention between thoſe mighty powers which diſputed for the ſovereignty of the ſtate. Many began to withdraw their effects beyond ſea; foreigners ſcrupled to give any credit to a people ſo torn by domeſtic faction, and oppreſſed by military uſurpation; even the internal commerce of the kingdom began to ſtagnate; and, in order to remedy theſe growing evils, the generals, in the name of the army, publiſhed a declaration, in which they expreſſed their reſolution of ſupporting law and juſtice.[q]

The more to quiet the minds of men, the council of officers took into conſideration a ſcheme called 'The agreement of the people;' being the plan of a republic, to be ſubſtituted in the place of that government which they had ſo violently pulled in pieces. Many parts of this ſcheme, for correcting the inequalities of the repreſentative, are plauſible, had the nation been diſpoſed to receive it, or had the army intended to impoſe it: other parts are too perfect for human nature, and ſavour ſtrongly of that fanatical ſpirit ſo prevalent throughout the kingdom.

The height of all iniquity and fanatical extravagance yet remained; the public trial and execution of their ſovereign. To this period was every meaſure precipitated by the zealous independents. The parliamentary leaders of that party had intended that the army themſelves ſhould execute that daring enterpriſe; and they deemed ſo irregular and lawleſs a deed beſt fitted to ſuch irregular and lawleſs inſtruments.' But the generals were too wiſe, to load themſelves ſingly with the infamy which they knew muſt attend an action ſo ſhocking to the general ſentiments of mankind. The parliament, they were reſolved, ſhould ſhare with them the reproach of a meaſure which was thought requiſite for the advancement of their common ends of ſafety

and ambition. In the houſe of commons, therefore, a committee was appointed to bring in a charge againſt the king. On their report a vote paſſed, declaring it treaſon in a king to levy war againſt his parliament, and appointing a High Court of Juſtice to try Charles for this new-invented treaſon. This vote was ſent up to the houſe of peers.

The houſe of peers, during the civil wars, had all along been of ſmall account; but it had lately, ſince the king's fall, become totally contemptible; and very few members would ſubmit to the mortification of attending it. It happened that day to be fuller than uſual, and they were aſſembled to the number of ſixteen. Without one diſſenting voice, and almoſt without deliberation, they inſtantly rejected the vote of the lower houſe, and adjourned themſelves for ten days, hoping that this delay would be able to retard the furious career of the commons.

The commons were not to be ſtopped by ſo ſmall an obſtacle. Having firſt eſtabliſhed a principle, which is noble in itſelf, and ſeems ſpecious, but is belied by all hiſtory and experience, 'that the people are the origin of all juſt power,' they next declared that the commons of England, aſſembled in parliament, being choſen by the people, and repreſenting them, are the ſupreme authority of the nation; and that whatever is enacted and declared to be law by the commons hath the force of law, without the conſent of king or houſe of peers. The ordinance for the trial of Charles Stuart, king of England (ſo they called him), was again read, and unanimouſly aſſented to.

In proportion to the enormity of the violences and uſurpations were augmented the pretences of ſanctity among thoſe regicides. 'Should any one have voluntarily propoſed,' ſaid Cromwell in the houſe, 'to bring the king to puniſhment, I ſhould have regarded him as the greateſt traitor; but, ſince providence and neceſſity have caſt us upon it, I will pray to God for a

bleſſing on your counſels, though I am not prepared to give you any advice on this important occaſion. Even I myſelf,' ſubjoined he, 'when I was lately offering up petitions for his majeſty's reſtoration, felt my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, and conſidered this preternatural movement as the anſwer which heaven, having rejected the king, had ſent to my ſupplications.'

A woman of Hertfordſhire, illuminated by prophetical viſions deſired admittance into the military council, and communicated to the officers a revelation which aſſured them that their meaſures were conſecrated from above, and ratified by a heavenly ſanction. This intelligence gave them great comfort, and much confirmed them in their preſent reſolutions.

Colonel Harriſon, the ſon of a butcher, and the moſt furious enthuſiaſt in the army, was ſent with a ſtrong party to conduct the king to London. At Windſor Hamilton, who was there detained a priſoner, was admitted into the king's preſence; and, falling on his knees, paſſionately exclaimed, 'My dear maſter!' 'I have indeed been ſo to you,' replied Charles, embracing him. No farther intercourſe was allowed between them. The king was inſtantly hurried away. Hamilton long followed him with his eyes, all ſuffuſed in tears, and prognoſticated that, in this ſhort ſalutation, he had given the laſt adieu to his ſovereign and his friend.

Charles himſelf was aſſured that the period of his life was now approaching; but, notwithſtanding all the preparations which were making, and the intelligence which he received, he could not even yet believe that his enemies really meant to conclude their violences by a public trial and execution. A private aſſaſſination he every moment looked for; and, though Harriſon aſſured him that his apprehenſions were entirely groundleſs, it was by that cataſtrophe, ſo frequent with dethroned princes,

that he expected to terminate his life. In appearance, as well as in reality, the king was now dethroned. All the exterior ſymbols of ſovereignty were withdrawn, and his attendants had orders to ſerve him without ceremony. At firſt he was ſhocked with inſtances of rudeneſs and familiarity to which he had been ſo little accuſtomed. 'Nothing ſo contemptible as a deſpiſed prince!' was the reflection which they ſuggeſted to him. But he ſoon reconciled his mind to this, as he had done to his other calamities.

All the circumſtances of the trial were now adjuſted, and the high court of juſtice fully conſtituted. It conſiſted of one hundred and thirty-three perſons, as named by the commons; but there ſcarcely ever ſat above ſeventy; ſo difficult was it, notwithſtanding the blindneſs of prejudice and the allurements of intereſt, to engage men of any name or character in that criminal meaſure. Cromwell, Ireton, Harriſon, and the chief officers of the army, moſt of them of mean birth, were members, together with ſome of the lower houſe and ſome citizens of London. The twelve judges were at firſt appointed in the number: but, as they had affirmed that it was contrary to all the ideas of Engliſh law to try the king for treaſon, by whoſe authority all accuſations for treaſon muſt neceſſarily be conducted, their names, as well as thoſe of ſome peers, were afterwards ſtruck out. Bradſhaw, a lawyer, was choſen preſident. Coke was appointed ſolicitor for the people of England. Doriſlaus, Steele, and Aſke, were named aſſiſtants. The court ſat in Weſtminſter-hall.

It is remarkable that, in calling over the court, when the crier pronounced the name of Fairfax, which had been inſerted in the number, a voice came from one of the ſpectators, and cried, 'He has more wit than to be here.' When the charge was read againſt the king, 'In the name of the people of England,' the

ſame voice exclaimed, 'Not a tenth part of them.' Axtel the officer, who guarded the court, giving orders to fire into the box whence theſe inſolent ſpeeches came, it was diſcovered that lady Fairfax was there, and that it was ſhe who had had the courage to utter them. She was a perſon of noble extraction, daughter of Horace, lord Vere of Tilbury; but, being ſeduced by the violence of the times, ſhe had long ſeconded her huſband's zeal againſt the royal cauſe, and was now, as well as he, ſtruck with abhorrence at the fatal and unexpected conſequence of all his boaſted victories.

THE KING'S TRIAL. 1649.

THE pomp, the dignity, the ceremony, of this tranſaction correſponded to the greateſt conception that is ſuggeſted in the annals of human kind; the delegates of a great people ſitting in judgment upon their ſupreme magiſtrate, and trying him for his miſgovernment and breach of truſt. The ſolicitor, in the name of the commons, repreſented that Charles Stuart, being admitted king of England, and intruſted with a limited power; yet, nevertheleſs, from a wicked deſign to erect an unlimited and tyrannical government, had traitorouſly and maliciouſly levied war againſt the preſent parliament, and the people whom they repreſented, and was therefore impeached as a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and a public and implacable enemy to the commonwealth. After the charge was finiſhed the preſident directed his diſcourſe to the king, and told him that the court expected his anſwer.

The king, though long detained a priſoner, and now produced as a criminal, ſuſtained, by his magnanimous courage, the majeſty of a monarch. With great temper and dignity he declined the authority of the court, and refuſed to ſubmit him-

ſelf to their juriſdiction. He repreſented that, having been engaged in treaty with his two houſes of parliament, and having finiſhed almoſt every article, he had expected to be brought to his capital in another manner, and ere this time to have been reſtored to his power, dignity, revenue, as well as to his perſonal liberty: that he could not now perceive any appearance of the upper houſe, ſo eſſential a member of the conſtitution; and had learned that even the commons, whoſe authority was pretended, were ſubdued by lawleſs force, and were bereaved of their liberty: that he himſelf was their Native Hereditary King; nor was the whole authority of the ſtate, though free and united, entitled to try him, who derived his dignity from the Supreme Majeſty of heaven: that, admitting thoſe extravagant principles which levelled all orders of men, the court could plead no power delegated by the people; unleſs the conſent of every individual, down to the meaneſt and moſt ignorant peaſant, had been previouſly aſked and obtained: that he acknowledged, without ſcruple, that he had a truſt committed to him, and one moſt ſacred and inviolable; he was intruſted with the liberties of his people, and would not now betray them by recogniſing a power founded on the moſt atrocious violence and uſurpation: that, having taken arms, and frequently expoſed his life in defence of public liberty, of the conſtitution, of the fundamental laws of the kingdom, he was willing, in this laſt and moſt ſolemn ſcene, to ſeal with his blood thoſe precious rights for which, though in vain, he had ſo long contended: that thoſe, who arrogated a title to ſit as his judges, were born his ſubjects, and born ſubjects to thoſe laws which determined that 'the king can do no wrong:' that he was not reduced to the neceſſity of ſheltering himſelf under this general maxim, which guards every Engliſh monarch, even the leaſt deſerving; but was able, by the moſt ſatisfactory reaſons, to juſtify thoſe meaſures in which he

had been engaged: that, to the whole world, and even to them his pretended judges, he was deſirous, if called upon in another manner, to prove the integrity of his conduct, and aſſert the juſtice of thoſe defenſive arms to which, unwillingly and unfortunately, he had had recourſe: but that, in order to preſerve a uniformity of conduct, he muſt at preſent forego the apology of his innocence; leſt, by ratifying an authority no better founded than that of robbers and pirates, he be juſtly branded as the betrayer, inſtead of being applauded as the martyr, of the conſtitution.

The preſident, in order to ſupport the majeſty of the people, and maintain the ſuperiority of his court above the priſoner, ſtill inculcated that he muſt not decline the authority of his judges; that they overruled his objections; that they were delegated by the people, the only ſource of every lawful power; and that kings themſelves acted but in truſt from that community which had inveſted this high court of juſtice with its juriſdiction. Even according to thoſe principles, which in his preſent ſituation he was perhaps obliged to adopt, his behaviour in general will appear not a little harſh and barbarous; but, when we conſider him as a ſubject, and one too of no high character, addreſſing himſelf to his unfortunate ſovereign, his ſtyle will be eſteemed, to the laſt degree, audacious and inſolent.

Three times was Charles produced before the court, and as often declined their juriſdiction. On the fourth, the judges having examined ſome witneſſes, by whom it was proved that the king had appeared in arms againſt the forces commiſſioned by the parliament, they pronounced ſentence againſt him. He ſeemed very anxious at this time to be admitted to a conference with the two houſes; and it was ſuppoſed that he intended to reſign the crown to his ſon: but the court refuſed compliance, and conſidered that requeſt as nothing but a delay of juſtice.

It is confeſſed that the king's behaviour, during this laſt ſcene of his life, does honour to his memory; and that, in all appearances before his judges, he never forgot his part either as a prince or as a man. Firm and intrepid, he maintained, in each reply, the utmoſt perſpicuity and juſtneſs both of thought and expreſſion; mild and equable, he roſe into no paſſion at that unuſual authority which was aſſumed over him. His ſoul, without effort or affectation, ſeemed only to remain in the ſituation familiar to it, and to look down with contempt on all the efforts of human malice and iniquity. The ſoldiers, inſtigated by their ſuperiors, were brought, though with difficulty, to cry aloud for juſtice. 'Poor ſouls!' ſaid the king to one of his attendants; 'for a little money' they would do as much againſt their commanders.' Some of them were permitted to go the utmoſt length of brutal inſolence, and to ſpit in his face as he was conducted along the paſſage to the court. To excite a ſentiment of piety was the only effect which this inhuman inſult was able to produce upon him.

The people, though under the rod of lawleſs, unlimited power, could not forbear, with the moſt ardent prayers, pouring forth their wiſhes for his preſervation; and in his preſent diſtreſs they avowed him, by their generous tears, for their monarch, whom, in their miſguided fury, they had before ſo violently rejected. The king was ſoftened at this moving ſcene, and expreſſed his gratitude for their dutiful affection. One ſoldier too, ſeized by contagious ſympathy, demanded from heaven a bleſſing on oppreſſed and fallen majeſty: his officer, overhearing the prayer, beat him to the ground in the king's preſence. 'The puniſhment, methinks, exceeds the offence.' This was the reflection which Charles formed on that occaſion.[u]

As ſoon as the intention of trying the king was known in foreign countries, ſo enormous an action was exclaimed againſt

by the general voice of reaſon and humanity; and all men, under whatever form of government they were born, rejected this example, as the utmoſt effort of undiſguiſed uſurpation, and the moſt heinous inſult on law and juſtice. The French ambaſſador, by orders from his court, interpoſed in the king's behalf; the Dutch employed their good offices; the Scots exclaimed and proteſted againſt the violence; the queen, the prince, wrote pathetic letters to the parliament. All ſolicitations were found fruitleſs with men whoſe reſolutions were fixed and irrevocable.

Four of Charles's friends, perſons of virtue and dignity, Richmond, Hertford, Southampton, Lindeſey, applied to the commons. They repreſented that they were the king's counſellors, and had concurred, by their advice, in all thoſe meaſures which were now imputed as crimes to their royal maſter; that in the eye of the law, and according to the dictates of common reaſon, they alone were guilty, and were alone expoſed to cenſure for every blameable action of the prince; and that they now preſented themſelves, in order to ſave, by their own puniſhment, that precious life which it became the commons themſelves, and every ſubject, with the utmoſt hazard,[w] to protect and defend. Such a generous effort tended to their honour; but contributed nothing towards the king's ſafety.

The people remained in that ſilence and aſtoniſhment which all great paſſions, when they have not an opportunity of exerting themſelves, naturally produce in the human mind. The ſoldiers, being inceſſantly plied with prayers, ſermons, and exhortations, were wrought up to a degree of fury, and imagined that in the acts of the moſt extreme diſloyalty towards their prince conſiſted their greateſt merit in the eye of heaven.[x]

Three days were allowed the king between his ſentence and his execution. This interval he paſſed with great tranquillity, chiefly in reading and devotion. All his family that remained

in England were allowed acceſs to him. It conſiſted only of the princeſs Elizabeth and the duke of Gloceſter, for the duke of York had made his eſcape. Gloceſter was little more than an infant; the princeſs, notwithſtanding her tender years, ſhewed an advanced judgment, and the calamities of her family had made a deep impreſſion upon her. After many pious conſolations and advices, the king gave her in charge to tell the queen that, during the whole courſe of his life, he had never once, even in thought, failed in his fidelity towards her; and that his conjugal tenderneſs and his life ſhould have an equal duration.

To the young duke too he could not forbear giving ſome advice, in order to ſeaſon his mind with early principles of loyalty and obedience towards his brother, who was ſo ſoon to be his ſovereign. Holding him on his knee, he ſaid, 'Now they will cut off thy father's head.' At theſe words the child looked very ſtedfaſtly upon him. 'Mark, child, what I ſay! They will cut off my head, and perhaps make thee a king! But mark what I ſay! Thou muſt not be a king as long as thy brothers Charles and James are alive. They will cut off thy brothers' heads when they can catch them! And thy head too they will cut off at laſt! Therefore, I charge thee, do not be made a king by them!' The duke, ſighing, replied, 'I will be torn in pieces firſt!' So determined an anſwer, from one of ſuch tender years, filled the king's eyes with tears of joy and admiration.

Every night, during this interval, the king ſlept ſound as uſual; though the noiſe of workmen, employed in framing the ſcaffold, and other preparations for his execution, continually reſounded in his ears. The morning of the fatal day he roſe early; and, calling Herbert, one of his attendants, he bade him employ more than uſual care in dreſſing him, and preparing him for ſo great and joyful a ſolemnity. Biſhop Juxon, a man en-

CHARLES I. TAKING LEAVE OF HIS CHILDREN.

T. Stothard R.A. pinx.

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Bromley fculp.

dowed with the ſame mild and ſteady virtues by which the king himſelf was ſo much diſtinguiſhed, aſſiſted him in his devotions, and paid the laſt melancholy duties to his friend and ſovereign.

EXECUTION OF THE KING. JAN. 30.

THE ſtreet before Whitehall was the place deſtined for the execution: for it was intended, by chooſing that very place in ſight of his own palace, to diſplay more evidently the triumph of popular juſtice over royal majeſty. When the king came upon the ſcaffold he found it ſo ſurrounded with ſoldiers, that he could not expect to be heard by any of the people: he addreſſed, therefore, his diſcourſe to the few perſons who were about him; particularly colonel Tomlinſon, to whoſe care he had lately been committed, and upon whom, as upon many others, his amiable deportment had wrought an entire converſion. He juſtified his own innocence in the late fatal wars, and obſerved that he had not taken arms till after the parliament had inliſted forces; nor had he any other object in his warlike operations than to preſerve that authority entire which his predeceſſors had tranſmitted to him. He threw not, however, the blame upon the parliament; but was more inclined to think that ill inſtruments had interpoſed, and raiſed in them fears and jealouſies with regard to his intentions. Though innocent towards his people, he acknowledged the equity of his execution in the eyes of his Maker; and obſerved that an unjuſt ſentence, which he had ſuffered to take effect, was now puniſhed by an unjuſt ſentence upon himſelf. He forgave all his enemies, even the chief inſtruments of his death; but exhorted them and the whole nation to return to the ways of peace, by paying obedience to their lawful ſovereign, his ſon and ſucceſſor. When he was preparing himſelf for the block biſhop Juxon called to him, 'There is, ſir,

but one ſtage more, which, though turbulent and troubleſome, is yet a very ſhort one. Conſider, it will ſoon carry you a great way; it will carry you from earth to heaven, and there you ſhall find, to your great joy, the prize to which you haſten, a crown of glory.' 'I go,' replied the king, 'from a corruptible to an incorruptible crown, where no diſturbance can have place.' At one blow was his head ſevered from his body. A man in a vizor performed the office of executioner; another, in a like diſguiſe, held up to the ſpectators the head ſtreaming with blood, and cried aloud, 'This is the head of a traitor!'

It is impoſſible to deſcribe the grief, indignation, and aſtoniſhment, which took place, not only among the ſpectators, who were overwhelmed with a flood of ſorrow, but throughout the whole nation, as ſoon as the report of this fatal execution was conveyed to them. Never monarch, in the full triumph of ſucceſs and victory, was more dear to his people than his misfortunes and magnanimity, his patience and piety, had rendered this unhappy prince. In proportion to their former deluſions, which had animated them againſt him, was the violence of their return to duty and affection; while each reproached himſelf, either with active diſloyalty towards him, or with too indolent defence of his oppreſſed cauſe. On weaker minds the effect of theſe complicated paſſions was prodigious. Women are ſaid to have caſt forth the untimely fruit of their womb; others fell into convulſions, or ſunk into ſuch a melancholy as attended them to their grave; nay, ſome, unmindful of themſelves, as though they could not, or would not, ſurvive their beloved prince, it is reported, ſuddenly fell down dead. The very pulpits were bedewed with unſuborned tears; thoſe pulpits which had formerly thundered out the moſt violent imprecations and anathemas againſt him. And all men united in their deteſtation of thoſe hypocritical parricides, who, by ſanctified pretences, had

ſo long diſguiſed their treaſons, and in this laſt act of iniquity had thrown an indelible ſtain upon the nation.

A freſh inſtance of hypocriſy was diſplayed the very day of the king's death. The generous Fairfax, not content with being abſent from the trial, had uſed all the intereſt which he yet retained to prevent the execution of the fatal ſentence; and had even employed perſuaſion with his own regiment, though none elſe would follow him, to reſcue the king from his diſloyal murderers. Cromwell and Ireton, informed of this intention, endeavoured to convince him that the Lord had rejected the king; and they exhorted him to ſeek by prayer ſome direction from heaven on this important occaſion: but they concealed from him that they had already ſigned the warrant for the execution. Harriſon was the perſon appointed to join in prayer with the unwary general. By agreement he prolonged his doleful cant till intelligence arrived that the fatal blow was ſtruck. He then roſe from his knees, and inſiſted with Fairfax that this event was a miraculous and providential anſwer, which heaven had ſent to their devout ſupplications.*

It being remarked that the king, the moment before he ſtretched out his neck to the executioner, had ſaid to Juxon, with a very earneſt accent, the ſingle word 'Remember,' great myſteries were ſuppoſed to be concealed under that expreſſion; and the generals vehemently inſiſted with the prelate that he ſhould inform them of the king's meaning. Juxon told them that the king, having frequently charged him to inculcate on his ſon the forgiveneſs of his murderers, had taken this opportunity, in the laſt moment of his life, when his commands, he ſuppoſed, would be regarded as ſacred and inviolable, to reiterate that deſire; and that his mild ſpirit thus terminated its preſent courſe by an act of benevolence towards his greateſt enemies.

CHARACTER OF THE KING.

THE character of this prince, as that of moſt men, if not of all men, was mixed; but his virtues predominated extremely above his vices, or, more properly ſpeaking, his imperfections; for ſcarce any of his faults roſe to that pitch as to merit the appellation of vices. To conſider him in the moſt favourable light, it may be affirmed that his dignity was free from pride, his humanity from weakneſs, his bravery from raſhneſs, his temperance from auſterity, his frugality from avarice: all theſe virtues in him maintained their proper bounds, and merited unreſerved praiſe. To ſpeak the moſt harſhly of him, we may affirm that many of his good qualities were attended with ſome latent frailty, which, though ſeemingly inconſiderable, was able, when ſeconded by the extreme malevolence of his fortune, to diſappoint them of all their influence: his beneficent diſpoſition was clouded by a manner not very gracious; his virtue was tinctured with ſuperſtition; his good ſenſe was disfigured by a deference to perſons of a capacity inferior to his own; and his moderate temper exempted him not from haſty and precipitate reſolutions. He deſerves the epithet of a good rather than of a great man; and was more fitted to rule in a regular eſtabliſhed government than either to give way to the encroachments of a popular aſſembly, or finally to ſubdue their pretenſions. He wanted ſuppleneſs and dexterity ſufficient for the firſt meaſure; he was not endowed with the vigour requiſite for the ſecond. Had he been born an abſolute prince, his humanity and good ſenſe had rendered his reign happy and his memory precious: had the limitations on prerogative been in his time quite fixed and certain, his integrity had made him regard as ſacred the boundaries of the conſtitution. Unhappily his fate threw him into a period

when the precedents of many former reigns favoured ſtrongly of arbitrary power, and the genius of the people ran violently towards liberty. And, if his political prudence was not ſufficient to extricate him from ſo perilous a ſituation, he may be excuſed, ſince, even after the event, when it is commonly eaſy to correct all errors, one is at a loſs to determine what conduct, in his circumſtances, could have maintained the authority of the crown, and preſerved the peace of the nation. Expoſed, without revenue, without arms, to the aſſault of furious, implacable, and bigoted factions, it was never permitted him, but with the moſt fatal conſequences, to commit the ſmalleſt miſtake; a condition too rigorous to be impoſed on the greateſt human capacity.

Some hiſtorians have raſhly queſtioned the good faith of this prince: but for this reproach the moſt malignant ſcrutiny of his conduct, which in every circumſtance is now thoroughly known, affords not any reaſonable foundation. On the contrary, if we conſider the extreme difficulties to which he was ſo frequently reduced, and compare the ſincerity of his profeſſions and declarations, we ſhall avow that probity and honour ought juſtly to be numbered among his moſt ſhining qualities. In every treaty thoſe conceſſions, which he thought he could not in conſcience maintain, he never could, by any motive or perſuaſion, be induced to make. And, though ſome violations of the petition of right may perhaps be imputed to him, theſe are more to be aſcribed to the neceſſity of his ſituation, and to the lofty ideas of royal prerogative, which from former eſtabliſhed precedents he had imbibed, than to any failure in the integrity of his principles.[a]

This prince was of a comely preſence; of a ſweet but melancholy aſpect. His face was regular, handſome, and well complexioned; his body ſtrong, healthy, and juſtly proportioned; and, being of a middle ſtature, he was capable of enduring the

greateſt fatigues. He excelled in horſemanſhip and other exerciſes; and he poſſeſſed all the exterior, as well as many of the eſſential, qualities which form an accompliſhed prince.

The tragical death of Charles begat a queſtion, whether the people, in any caſe, were entitled to judge and to puniſh their ſovereign. And moſt men, regarding chiefly the atrocious uſurpation of the pretended judges, and the merit of the virtuous prince who ſuffered, were inclined to condemn the republican principle as highly ſeditious and extravagant: but there ſtill were a few who, abſtracting from the particular circumſtances of this caſe, were able to conſider the queſtion in general, and were inclined to moderate, not contradict, the prevailing ſentiment. Such might have been their reaſoning. If ever, on any occaſion, it were laudable to conceal truth from the populace, it muſt be confeſſed that the doctrine of reſiſtance affords ſuch an example; and that all ſpeculative reaſoners ought to obſerve with regard to this principle, the ſame cautious ſilence which the laws in every ſpecies of government have ever preſcribed to themſelves. Government is inſtituted in order to reſtrain the fury and injuſtice of the people; and, being always founded on opinion, not on force, it is dangerous to weaken, by theſe ſpeculations, the reverence which the multitude owe to authority, and to inſtruct them beforehand that the caſe can ever happen when they may be freed from their duty of allegiance. Or, ſhould it be found impoſſible to reſtrain the licenſe of human diſquiſitions, it muſt be acknowledged that the doctrine of obedience ought alone to be inculcated, and that the exceptions, which are rare, ought ſeldom or never to be mentioned in popular reaſonings and diſcourſes. Nor is there any danger that mankind, by this prudent reſerve, ſhould univerſally degenerate into a ſtate of abject ſervitude. When the exception really occurs, even though it be not previouſly expected and deſcanted

on, it muſt, from its very nature, be ſo obvious and undiſputed as to remove all doubt, and overpower the reſtraint, however great, impoſed by teaching the general doctrine of obedience. But between reſiſting a prince and dethroning him, there is a wide interval; and the abuſes of power, which can warrant the latter violence, are greater and more enormous than thoſe which will juſtify the former. Hiſtory, however, ſupplies us with examples even of this kind; and the reality of the ſuppoſition, though, for the future, it ought ever to be little looked for, muſt, by all candid inquirers, be acknowledged in the paſt. But between dethroning a prince and puniſhing him there is another very wide interval; and it were not ſtrange if even men of the moſt enlarged thought ſhould queſtion whether human nature could ever, in any monarch, reach that height of depravity as to warrant, in revolted ſubjects, this laſt act of extraordinary juriſdiction. That illuſion, if it be an illuſion, which teaches us to pay a ſacred regard to the perſons of princes, is ſo ſalutary, that to diſſipate it by the formal trial and puniſhment of a ſovereign will have more pernicious effects upon the people than the example of juſtice can be ſuppoſed to have a beneficial influence upon princes, by checking their career of tyranny. It is dangerous alſo, by theſe examples, to reduce princes to deſpair, or bring matters to ſuch extremities, againſt perſons endowed with great power, as to leave them no reſource but in the moſt violent and moſt ſanguinary counſels. This general poſition being eſtabliſhed, it muſt however be obſerved that no reader, almoſt of any party or principle, was ever ſhocked when he read, in ancient hiſtory, that the Roman ſenate voted Nero, their abſolute ſovereign, to be a public enemy, and even without trial condemned him to the ſevereſt and moſt ignominious puniſhment; a puniſhment from which the meaneſt Roman citizen was by the laws exempted. The crimes of that bloody tyrant are

ſo enormous that they break through all rules; and extort a confeſſion that ſuch a dethroned prince is no longer ſuperior to his people, and can no longer plead in his own defence laws which were eſtabliſhed for conducting the ordinary courſe of adminiſtration. But, when we paſs from the caſe of Nero to that of Charles, the great diſproportion, or rather total contrariety, of character immediately ſtrikes us; and we ſtand aſtoniſhed that, among a civilized people, ſo much virtue could ever meet with ſo fatal a cataſtrophe. Hiſtory, the great miſtreſs of wiſdom, furniſhes examples of all kinds; and every prudential, as well as moral, precept may be authoriſed by thoſe events which her enlarged mirror is able to preſent to us. From the memorable revolutions which paſſed in England during this period we may naturally deduce the ſame uſeful leſſon which Charles himſelf, in his later years, inferred; that it is dangerous for princes, even from the appearance of neceſſity, to aſſume more authority than the laws have allowed them. But it muſt be confeſſed that theſe events furniſh us with another inſtruction, no leſs natural, and no leſs uſeful, concerning the madneſs of the people, the furies of fanaticiſm, and the danger of mercenary armies.

In order to cloſe this part of the Britiſh hiſtory, it is alſo neceſſary to relate the diſſolution of the monarchy in England; that event ſoon followed upon the death of the monarch. When the peers met, on the day appointed in their adjournment, they entered upon buſineſs, and ſent down ſome votes to the commons, of which the latter deigned not to take the leaſt notice. In a few days the lower houſe paſſed a vote that they would make no more addreſſes to the houſe of peers, nor receive any from them; and that that houſe was uſeleſs and dangerous, and was therefore to be aboliſhed. A like vote paſſed with regard to the monarchy; and it is remarkable that Martin, a zealous republican, in the debate on this queſtion, confeſſed

that, if they defired a king, the laſt was as proper as any gentleman in England.[b] The commons ordered a new great ſeal to be engraved, on which that aſſembly was repreſented, with this legend, 'On the firſt year of freedom, by God's bleſſing, reſtored, 1648.' The forms of all public buſineſs were changed from the king's name to that of the keepers of the liberties of England.[c] And it was declared high treaſon to proclaim, or any otherwiſe acknowledge, Charles Stuart, commonly called prince of Wales.

The commons intended, it is ſaid, to bind the princeſs Elizabeth apprentice to a button-maker: the duke of Gloceſter was to be taught ſome other mechanical employment. But the former ſoon died; of grief, as is ſuppoſed, for her father's tragical end: the latter was, by Cromwell, ſent beyond ſea.

The king's ſtatue, in the exchange, was thrown down; and on the pedeſtal theſe words were inſcribed: 'Exit tyrannus, regum ultimus;' The tyrant is gone, the laſt of the kings.

Duke Hamilton was tried by a new high court of juſtice, as earl of Cambridge in England, and condemned for treaſon. This ſentence, which was certainly hard, but which ought to ſave his memory from all imputations of treachery to his maſter, was executed on a ſcaffold erected before Weſtminſter-hall: lord Capel underwent the ſame fate. Both theſe noblemen had eſcaped from priſon, but were afterwards diſcovered and taken. To all the ſolicitations of their friends for pardon, the generals and parliamentary leaders ſtill replied that it was certainly the intention of Providence they ſhould ſuffer, ſince it had permitted them to fall into the hands of their enemies after they had once recovered their liberty.

The earl of Holland loſt his life by a like ſentence. Though of a polite and courtly behaviour, he died lamented by no party. His ingratitude to the king, and his frequent changing of ſides,

were regarded as great ſtains on his memory. The earl of Norwich and ſir John Owen, being condemned by the ſame court, were pardoned by the commons.

The king left ſix children; three males, Charles, born in 1630, James duke of York, born in 1633, Henry duke of Gloceſter, born in 1641; and three females, Mary princeſs of Orange, born 1631, Elizabeth, born 1635, and Henrietta, afterwards ducheſs of Orleans, born at Exeter 1644.

The archbiſhops of Canterbury in this reign were Abbot and Laud; the lord keepers, Williams biſhop of Lincoln, lord Coventry, lord Finch, lord Littleton, and ſir Richard Lane; the high admirals, the duke of Buckingham and the earl of Northumberland; the treaſurers, the earl of Marlborough, the earl of Portland, Juxon biſhop of London, and lord Cottington; the ſecretaries of ſtate, lord Conway, ſir Albertus Moreton, Coke, ſir Henry Vane, lord Falkland, lord Digby, and ſir Edward Nicholas.

It may be expected that we ſhould here mention the 'Icon Baſilike,' a work publiſhed in the king's name a few days after his execution. It ſeems almoſt impoſſible, in the controverted parts of hiſtory, to ſay any thing which will ſatisfy the zealots of both parties: but, with regard to the genuineneſs of that production, it is not eaſy for an hiſtorian to fix any opinion which will be entirely to his own ſatisfaction. The proofs brought to evince that this work is or is not the king's are ſo convincing, that, if an impartial reader peruſe any one ſide apart,[a] he will think it impoſſible that arguments could be produced ſufficient to counterbalance ſo ſtrong an evidence; and, when he compares both ſides, he will be ſome time at a loſs to fix any determination. Should an abſolute ſuſpenſe of judgment be found difficult or diſagreeable in ſo intereſting a queſtion, I muſt confeſs that I much incline to give the preference to the arguments of

the royaliſts. The teſtimonies, which prove that performance to be the king's, are more numerous, certain, and direct, than thoſe on the other ſide. This is the caſe, even if we conſider the external evidence: but, when we weigh the internal, derived from the ſtyle and compoſition, there is no manner of compariſon. Theſe meditations reſemble in elegance, purity, neatneſs, and ſimplicity, the genius of thoſe performances which we know with certainty to have flowed from the royal pen: but are ſo unlike the bombaſt, perplexed, rhetorical, and corrupt, ſtyle of Dr. Gauden, to whom they are aſcribed, that no human teſtimony ſeems ſufficient to convince us that he was the author. Yet all the evidences, which would rob the king of that honour, tend to prove that Dr. Gauden had the merit of writing ſo fine a performance, and the infamy of impoſing it on the world for the king's.

It is not eaſy to conceive the general compaſſion excited towards the king by the publiſhing, at ſo critical a juncture, a work ſo full of piety, meekneſs, and humanity. Many have not ſcrupled to aſcribe to that book the ſubſequent reſtoration of the royal family. Milton compares its effects to thoſe which were wrought on the tumultuous Romans by Anthony's reading to them the will of Cæſar. The 'Icon' paſſed through fifty editions in a twelvemonth; and, independent of the great intereſt taken in it by the nation, as the ſuppoſed production of their murdered ſovereign, it muſt be acknowledged the beſt proſe compoſition which, at the time of its publication, was to be found in the Engliſh language.

OLIVER CROMWELL REJECTING THE CROWN.

THE COMMON WEALTH

CHAP. LX. LXI. LXII.

STATE OF ENGLAND: OF SCOTLAND: OF IRELAND: LEVELLERS SUPPRESSED: MONTROSE TAKEN PRISONER: EXECUTED: BATTLE OF WORCESTER: KING'S ESCAPE: THE COMMON WEALTH: DUTCH WAR: CROMWELL'S BIRTH & PRIVATE LIFE: MADE PROTECTOR: INSURRECTION OF THE ROYALISTS: WAR WITH SPAIN: CROMWELL REJECTS THE CROWN: HUMBLE PETITION AND ADVICE: SICKNESS OF THE PROTECTOR: HIS DEATH & CHARACTER: RICHARD ACKNOWLEDGED PROTECTOR: RICHARD DEPOSED: CONSPIRACY OF THE ROYALISTS: GENERAL MONK: PARLIAMENT RESTORED: LONG PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED: THE RESTORATION: MANNERS AND ARTS.

COINS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH

CHAPTER LX.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

1649....1660.

STATE OF ENGLAND....OF SCOTLAND....OF IRELAND....LEVELLERS SUPPRESSED....SIEGE OF DUBLIN RAISED....TREDAH STORMED ....COVENANTERS....MONTROSE TAKEN PRISONER....EXECUTED.... COVENANTERS....BATTLE OF DUNBAR....OF WORCESTER....KING'S ESCAPE....THE COMMONWEALTH....DUTCH WAR....DISSOLUTION OF THE PARLIAMENT.

STATE OF ENGLAND. 1649.

THE confuſions which overſpread England after the murder of Charles I proceeded as well from the ſpirit of refinement and innovation, which agitated the ruling party, as from the diſſolution of all that authority, both civil and eccleſiaſtical, by which the nation had ever been accuſtomed to be governed. Every man had framed the model of a republic; and, however new it was, or fantaſtical, he was eager in recommending it to his fellow citizens, or even impoſing it by force upon them. Every man had adjuſted a ſyſtem of religion, which, being derived from no traditional authority, was peculiar to himſelf; and, being founded on ſuppoſed inſpiration, not on any principles of human reaſon, had no means, beſides cant and low rhetoric, by

which it could recommend itſelf to others. The levellers inſiſted on an equal diſtribution of power and property, and diſclaimed all dependance and ſubordination. The millenarians, or fifth-monarchy-men, required that government itſelf ſhould be aboliſhed, and all human powers be laid in the duſt, in order to pave the way for the dominion of Chriſt, whoſe ſecond coming they ſuddenly expected. The antinomians even inſiſted that the obligations of morality and natural law were ſuſpended; and that the elect, guided by an internal principle more perfect and divine, were ſuperior to the beggarly elements of juſtice and humanity. A conſiderable party declaimed againſt tithes and hireling prieſthood, and were reſolved that the magiſtrate ſhould not ſupport by power or revenue any eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhment. Another party inveighed againſt the law and its profeſſors; and, on pretence of rendering more ſimple the diſtribution of juſtice, were deſirous of aboliſhing the whole ſyſtem of Engliſh juriſprudence, which ſeemed interwoven with monarchical government. Even thoſe among the republicans who adopted not ſuch extravagancies were ſo intoxicated with their ſaintly character, that they ſuppoſed themſelves poſſeſſed of peculiar privileges; and all profeſſions, oaths, laws, and engagements, had, in a great meaſure, loſt their influence over them. The bands of ſociety were every where looſened; and the irregular paſſions of men were encouraged by ſpeculative principles, ſtill more unſocial and irregular.

The royaliſts, conſiſting of the nobles and more conſiderable gentry, being degraded from their authority and plundered of their property, were inflamed with the higheſt reſentment and indignation againſt thoſe ignoble adverſaries who had reduced them to ſubjection. The preſbyterians, whoſe credit had firſt ſupported the arms of the parliament, were enraged to find that, by the treachery or ſuperior cunning of their aſſociates, the

fruits of all their ſucceſsful labours were raviſhed from them. The former party, from inclination and principle, zealouſly attached themſelves to the ſon of their unfortunate monarch, whoſe memory they reſpected, and whoſe tragical death they deplored: the latter caſt their eye towards the ſame object; but they had ſtill many prejudices to overcome, many fears and jealouſies to be allayed, ere they could cordially entertain thoughts of reſtoring the family which they had ſo grievouſly offended, and whoſe principles they regarded with ſuch violent abhorrence.

The only ſolid ſupport of the republican independent faction, which, though it formed ſo ſmall a part of the nation, had violently uſurped the government of the whole, was a numerous army of near fifty thouſand men. But this army, formidable from its diſcipline and courage as well as its numbers, was actuated by a ſpirit that rendered it dangerous to the aſſembly which had aſſumed the command over it. Accuſtomed to indulge every chimera in politics, every frenzy in religion, the ſoldiers knew little of the ſubordination of citizens, and had only learned, from apparent neceſſity, ſome maxims of military obedience. And, while they ſtill maintained that all thoſe enormous violations of law and equity, of which they had been guilty, were juſtified by the ſucceſs with which Providence had bleſſed them, they were ready to break out into any new diſorder wherever they had the proſpect of a like ſanction and authority.

What alone gave ſome ſtability to all theſe unſettled humours was the great influence, both civil and military, acquired by Oliver Cromwell. This man, ſuited to the age in which he lived, and to that alone, was equally qualified to gain the affection and confidence of men by what was mean, vulgar, and ridiculous, in his character; as to command their obedience by what was great, daring, and enterpriſing. Familiar, even to buffoonery,

with the meaneſt centinel, he never loſt his authority: tranſported to a degree of madneſs with religious ecſtaſies, he never forgot the political purpoſes to which they might ſerve. Hating monarchy while a ſubject, deſpiſing liberty while a citizen, though he retained for a time all orders of men under a ſeeming obedience to the parliament, he was ſecretly paving the way, by artifice and courage, to his own unlimited authority.

The parliament, for ſo we muſt henceforth call a ſmall and inconſiderable part of the houſe of commons, having murdered their ſovereign with ſo many appearing circumſtances of ſolemnity and juſtice, and ſo much real violence and even fury, began to aſſume more the air of a civil, legal power, and to enlarge a little the narrow bottom upon which they ſtood. They admitted a few of the excluded and abſent members, ſuch as were liable to leaſt exception; but on condition that theſe members ſhould ſign an approbation of whatever had been done in their abſence with regard to the king's trial: and ſome of them were willing to acquire a ſhare of power on ſuch terms: the greater part diſdained to lend their authority to ſuch apparent uſurpations. They iſſued ſome writs for new elections, in places where they hoped to have intereſt enough to bring in their own friends and dependants. They named a council of ſtate, thirty-eight in number, to whom all addreſſes were made, who gave orders to all generals and admirals, who executed the laws, and who digeſted all buſineſs before it was introduced into parliament.[e] They pretended to employ themſelves entirely in adjuſting the laws, forms, and plan, of a new repreſentative; and, as ſoon as they ſhould have ſettled the nation, they profeſſed their intention of reſtoring the power to the people, from whom they acknowledged they had entirely derived it.

The commonwealth found every thing in England compoſed into a ſeeming tranquillity by the terror of their arms. Foreign

powers, occupied in wars among themſelves, had no leiſure or inclination to interpoſe in the domeſtic diſſenſions of this iſland. The young king, poor and neglected, living ſometimes in Holland, ſometimes in France, ſometimes in Jerſey, comforted himſelf amidſt his preſent diſtreſſes with the hopes of better fortune. The ſituation alone of Scotland and Ireland gave any immediate inquietude to the new republic.

STATE OF SCOTLAND.

After the ſucceſſive defeats of Montroſe and Hamilton, and the ruin of their parties, the whole authority in Scotland fell into the hands of Argyle and the rigid churchmen, that party which was moſt averſe to the intereſts of the royal family. Their enmity, however, againſt the independents, who had prevented the ſettlement of preſbyterian diſcipline in England, carried them to embrace oppoſite maxims in their political conduct. Though invited by the Engliſh parliament to model their government into a republican form, they reſolved ſtill to adhere to monarchy, which had ever prevailed in their country, and which, by the expreſs terms of their covenant, they had engaged to defend. They conſidered, beſides, that, as the property of the kingdom lay moſtly in the hands of great families, it would be difficult to eſtabliſh a commonwealth, or without ſome chief magiſtrate, inveſted with royal authority, to preſerve peace or juſtice in the community. The execution, therefore, of the king, againſt which they had always proteſted, having occaſioned a vacancy of the throne, they immediately proclaimed his ſon and ſucceſſor, Charles II; but upon condition 'of his good behaviour and ſtrict obſervance of the covenant, and his entertaining no other perſons about him but ſuch as were godly men, and faithful to that obligation.' Theſe unuſual clauſes, inſerted in the very firſt

acknowledgment of their prince, ſufficiently ſhewed their intention of limiting extremely his authority. And the Engliſh commonwealth, having no pretence to interpoſe in the affairs of that kingdom, allowed the Scots for the preſent to take their own meaſures in ſettling their government.

STATE OF IRELAND.

THE dominion which England claimed over Ireland demanded more immediately their efforts for ſubduing that country. In order to convey a juſt notion of Iriſh affairs, it will be neceſſary to look backwards ſome years, and to relate briefly thoſe tranſactions which had paſt during the memorable revolutions in England. When the late king agreed to that ceſſation of arms with the popiſh rebels [f] which was become ſo requiſite, as well for the ſecurity of the Iriſh proteſtants as for promoting his intereſts in England, the parliament, in order to blacken his conduct, reproached him with favouring that odious rebellion, and exclaimed loudly againſt the terms of the ceſſation. They even went ſo far as to declare it entirely null and invalid, becauſe finiſhed without their conſent; and to this declaration the Scots in Ulſter, and the earl of Inchiquin, a nobleman of great authority in Munſter, profeſſed to adhere. By their means the war was ſtill kept alive; but, as the dangerous diſtractions in England hindered the parliament from ſending any conſiderable aſſiſtance to their allies in Ireland, the marquis of Ormond, lord lieutenant, being a native of Ireland, and a perſon endowed with great prudence and virtue, formed a ſcheme for compoſing the diſorders of his country, and for engaging the rebel Iriſh to ſupport the cauſe of his royal maſter. There were many circumſtances which ſtrongly invited the natives of Ireland to embrace the king's party. The maxims of that prince had always

led him to give a reaſonable indulgence to the catholics throughout all his dominions; and one principal ground of that enmity which the puritans profeſſed againſt him was this tacit toleration. The parliament, on the contrary, even when unprovoked, had ever menaced the papiſts with the moſt rigid reſtraint, if not a total extirpation; and immediately after the commencement of the Iriſh rebellion they put to ſale all the eſtates of the rebels, and had engaged the public faith for transferring them to the adventurers, who had already advanced money upon that ſecurity. The ſucceſs, therefore, which the arms of the parliament met with at Naſeby ſtruck a juſt terror into the Iriſh; and engaged the council of Kilkenny, compoſed of deputies from all the catholic counties and cities, to conclude a peace with the marquis of Ormond.[g] They profeſſed to return to their duty and allegiance, engaged to furniſh ten thouſand men for the ſupport of the king's authority in England, and were content with ſtipulating, in return, indemnity for their rebellion, and toleration of their religion.

Ormond, not doubting but a peace, ſo advantageous and even neceſſary to the Iriſh, would be ſtrictly obſerved, advanced with a ſmall body of troops to Kilkenny, in order to concert meaſures for common defence with his new allies. The pope had ſent over to Ireland a nuncio, Rinuccini, an Italian; and this man, whoſe commiſſion empowerd him to direct the ſpiritual concerns of the Iriſh, was emboldened, by their ignorance and bigotry, to aſſume the chief authority in the civil government. Foreſeeing that a general ſubmiſſion to the lord lieutenant would put an end to his own influence, he conſpired with Owen O'Neal, who commanded the native Iriſh in Ulſter, and who bore a great jealouſy to Preſton, the general chiefly truſted by the council of Kilkenny. By concert theſe two malcontents ſecretly drew forces together, and were ready to fall on Ormond, who remained in

ſecurity, truſting to the pacification ſo lately concluded with the rebels. He received intelligence of their treachery, made his retreat with celerity and conduct, and ſheltered his ſmall army in Dublin and the other fortified towns, which ſtill remained in the hands of the proteſtants.

The nuncio, full of arrogance, levity, and ambition, was not contented with this violation of treaty. He ſummoned an aſſembly of the clergy at Waterford, and engaged them to declare againſt that pacification which the civil council had concluded with their ſovereign. He even thundered out a ſentence of excommunication againſt all who ſhould adhere to a peace, ſo prejudicial, as he pretended, to the catholic religion; and the deluded Iriſh, terrified with his ſpiritual menaces, ranged themſelves every where on his ſide, and ſubmitted to his authority. Without ſcruple he carried on war againſt the lord lieutenant, and threatened with a ſiege the proteſtant garriſons, which were, all of them, very ill provided for defence.

Meanwhile the unfortunate king was neceſſitated to take ſhelter in the Scottiſh army; and, being there reduced to cloſe confinement, and ſecluded from all commerce with his friends, deſpaired that his authority, or even his liberty, would ever be reſtored to him. He ſent orders to Ormond, if he could not defend himſelf, rather to ſubmit to the Engliſh than to the Iriſh rebels; and accordingly the lord lieutenant, being reduced to extremities, delivered up Dublin, Tredah, Dundalk, and other garriſons, to colonel Michael Jones, who took poſſeſſion of them in the name of the Engliſh parliament. Ormond himſelf went over to England, was admitted into the king's preſence, received a grateful acknowledgment for his paſt ſervices, and during ſome time lived in tranquillity near London. But, being baniſhed with the other royaliſts to a diſtance from that city, and ſeeing every event turn out unfortunately for his royal maſter, and threaten

him with a cataſtrophe ſtill more direful, he thought proper to retire into France, where he joined the queen and the prince of Wales.

In Ireland, during theſe tranſactions, the authority of the nuncio prevailed without control among all the catholics; and that prelate, by his indiſcretion and inſolence, ſoon made them repent of the power with which they had intruſted him. Prudent men likewiſe were ſenſible of the total deſtruction which was hanging over the nation from the Engliſh parliament, and ſaw no reſource or ſafety but in giving ſupport to the declining authority of the king. The earl of Clanricarde, a nobleman of an ancient family, a perſon too of merit, who had ever preſerved his loyalty, was ſenſible of the ruin which threatened his countrymen, and was reſolved, if poſſible, to prevent it. He ſecretly formed a combination among the catholics; he entered into a correſpondence with Inchiquin, who preſerved great authority over the proteſtants in Munſter; he attacked the nuncio, whom he chaſed out of the iſland; and he ſent to Paris a deputation, inviting the lord lieutenant to return and take poſſeſſion of his government.

Ormond, on his arrival in Ireland, found the kingdom divided into many factions, among which either open war or ſecret enmity prevailed. The authority of the Engliſh parliament was eſtabliſhed in Dublin, and the other towns which he himſelf had delivered into their hands. O'Neal maintained his credit in Ulſter; and, having entered into a ſecret correſpondence with the parliamentary generals, was more intent on ſchemes for his own perſonal ſafety than anxious for the preſervation of his country or religion. The other Iriſh, divided between their clergy, who were averſe to Ormond, and their nobility, who were attached to him, were very uncertain in their motions and feeble in their meaſures. The Scots in the north, enraged, as

well as their other countrymen, againſt the uſurpations of the ſectarian army, profeſſed their adherence to the king; but were ſtill hindered, by many prejudices, from entering into a cordial union with his lieutenant. All theſe diſtracted counſels and contrary humours checked the progreſs of Ormond, and enabled the parliamentary forces in Ireland to maintain their ground againſt him. The republican faction, meanwhile, in England, employed in ſubduing the revolted royaliſts, in reducing the parliament to ſubjection, in the trial, condemnation, and execution of their ſovereign, totally neglected the ſupplying of Ireland, and allowed Jones, and the forces in Dublin, to remain in the utmoſt weakneſs and neceſſity. The lord lieutenant, though ſurrounded with difficulties, neglected not the favourable opportunity of promoting the royal cauſe. Having at laſt aſſembled an army of ſixteen thouſand men, he advanced upon the parliamentary garriſons. Dundalk, where Monk commanded, was delivered up by the troops, who mutinied againſt their governor; Tredah, Neury, and other forts, were taken; Dublin was threatened with a ſiege; and the affairs of the lieutenant appeared in ſo proſperous a condition, that the young king entertained thoughts of coming in perſon into Ireland.

When the Engliſh commonwealth was brought to ſome tolerable ſettlement men began to caſt their eyes towards the neighbouring iſland. During the conteſt of the two parties the government of Ireland had remained a great object of intrigue; and the preſbyterians endeavoured to obtain the lieutenancy for Waller, the independents for Lambert. After the execution of the king Cromwell himſelf began to aſpire to a command, where ſo much glory he ſaw might be won, and ſo much authority acquired. In his abſence he took care to have his name propoſed to the council of ſtate; and both friends and enemies concurred immediately to vote him into that important office:

the former ſuſpected that the matter had not been propoſed merely by chance, without his own concurrence; the latter deſired to remove him to a diſtance, and hoped, during his abſence, to gain the aſcendant over Fairfax, whom he had ſo long blinded by his hypocritical profeſſions. Cromwell himſelf, when informed of his election, feigned ſurpriſe, and pretended at firſt to heſitate with regard to the acceptance of the command: and Lambert, either deceived by his diſſimulation, or in his turn feigning to be deceived, ſtill continued, notwithſtanding this diſappointment, his friendſhip and connexions with Cromwell.

The new lieutenant immediately applied himſelf with his wonted vigilance to make preparations for his expedition. Many diſorders in England it behoved him previouſly to compoſe. All places were full of danger and inquietude. Though men, aſtoniſhed with the ſucceſſes of the army, remained in ſeeming tranquillity, ſymptoms of the greateſt diſcontent every where appeared. The Engliſh, long accuſtomed to a mild adminiſtration, and unacquainted with diſſimulation, could not conform their ſpeech and countenance to the preſent neceſſity, or pretend attachment to a form of government which they generally regarded with ſuch violent abhorrence. It was requiſite to change the magiſtracy of London, and to degrade, as well as puniſh, the mayor and ſome of the aldermen, before the proclamation for the abolition of monarchy could be publiſhed in the city. An engagement being framed to ſupport the commonwealth without king or houſe of peers, the army was with ſome difficulty brought to ſubſcribe it; but, though it was impoſed upon the reſt of the nation under ſevere penalties, no leſs than putting all who refuſed out of the protection of law, ſuch obſtinate reluctance was obſerved in the people that even the imperious parliament was obliged to deſiſt from it. The ſpirit of fanaticiſm, by which that aſſembly had at firſt been

ſtrongly ſupported, was now turned in a great meaſure againſt them. The pulpits, being chiefly filled with preſbyterians, or diſguſted royaliſts, and having long been the ſcene of news and politics, could by no penalties be reſtrained from declarations unfavourable to the eſtabliſhed government. Numberleſs were the extravagances which broke out among the people. Everard, a diſbanded ſoldier, having preached that the time was now come when the community of goods would be renewed among Chriſtians, led out his followers to take poſſeſſion of the land; and, being carried before the general, he refuſed to ſalute him, becauſe he was but his fellow creature.[h] What ſeemed more dangerous, the army itſelf was infected with like humours.[i]

LEVELLERS SUPPRESSED.

Though the levellers had for a time been ſuppreſſed by the audacious ſpirit of Cromwell, they ſtill continued to propagate their doctrines among the private men and inferior officers, who pretended a right to be conſulted, as before, in the adminiſtration of the commonwealth. They now practiſed againſt their officers the ſame leſſon which they had been taught againſt the parliament. They framed a remonſtrance, and ſent five agitators to preſent it to the general and council of war: theſe were caſhiered with ignominy by ſentence of a court-martial. One Lockier, having carried his ſedition farther, was ſentenced to death; but this puniſhment was ſo far from quelling the mutinous ſpirit, that above a thouſand of his companions ſhewed their adherence to him by attending his funeral, and wearing in their hats black and ſea-green ribbons by way of favours. About four thouſand aſſembled at Burford, under the command of Thomſon, a man formerly condemned for ſedition by a court-martial, but pardoned by the general. Colonel Reynolds, and

afterwards Fairfax and Cromwell, fell upon them while unprepared for defence, and ſeduced by the appearance of a treaty: four hundred were taken priſoners; ſome of them capitally puniſhed, the reſt pardoned: and this tumultuous ſpirit, though it ſtill lurked in the army, and broke out from time to time, ſeemed for the preſent to be ſuppreſſed.

Petitions, framed in the ſame ſpirit of oppoſition, were preſented to the parliament by lieutenant-colonel Lilburn, the perſon who, for diſperſing ſeditious libels, had formerly been treated with ſuch ſeverity by the ſtar chamber. His liberty was at this time as ill reliſhed by the parliament, and he was thrown into priſon as a promoter of ſedition and diſorder in the commonwealth. The women applied by petition for his releaſe; but were now deſired to mind their houſehold affairs, and leave the government of the ſtate to the men. From all quarters the parliament was haraſſed with petitions of a very free nature, which ſtrongly ſpoke the ſenſe of the nation, and proved how ardently all men longed for the reſtoration of their laws and liberties. Even in a feaſt which the city gave to the parliament and council of ſtate, it was deemed a requiſite precaution, if we may credit Walker and Dugdale, to ſwear all the cooks that they would ſerve nothing but wholeſome food to them.

The parliament judged it neceſſary to enlarge the laws of high treaſon beyond thoſe narrow bounds within which they had been confined during the monarchy. They even comprehended verbal offences, nay intentions, though they had never appeared in any overt act againſt the ſtate. To affirm the preſent government to be an uſurpation, to aſſert that the parliament or council of ſtate were tyrannical or illegal, to endeavour ſubverting their authority, or ſtirring up ſedition againſt them; theſe offences were declared to be high treaſon. The power of impriſonment, of which the petition of right had bereaved the

king, it was now found neceſſary to reſtore to the council of ſtate; and all the jails in England were filled with men whom the jealouſies and fears of the ruling party had repreſented as dangerous.[k] The taxes, continued by the new government, and which, being unuſual, were eſteemed heavy, increaſed the general ill will under which it laboured. Beſides the cuſtoms and exciſe, ninety thouſand pounds a month were levied on land for the ſubſiſtence of the army. The ſequeſtrations and compoſitions of the royaliſts, the ſale of the crown lands, and of the dean and chapter lands, though they yielded great ſums, were not ſufficient to ſupport the vaſt expenſes, and, as was ſuſpected, the great depredations, of the parliament and their creatures.

SIEGE OF DUBLIN RAISED.

Amidst all theſe difficulties and diſturbances the ſteady mind of Cromwell, without confuſion or embarraſſment, ſtill purſued its purpoſe. While he was collecting an army of twelve thouſand men in the weſt of England he ſent to Ireland, under Reynolds and Venables, a reinforcement of four thouſand horſe and foot, in order to ſtrengthen Jones, and enable him to defend himſelf againſt the marquis of Ormond, who lay at Finglaſs, and was making preparations for the attack of Dublin. Inchiquin, who had now made a treaty with the king's lieutenant, having, with a ſeparate body, taken Tredah and Dundalk, gave a defeat to Offarrell who ſerved under O'Neal, and to young Coot who commanded ſome parliamentary forces. After he had joined his troops to the main army, with whom for ſome time he remained united, Ormond paſſed the river Liffy, and took poſt at Rathmines, two miles from Dublin, with a view of commencing the ſiege of that city. In order to cut off all farther ſupply from Jones, he had begun the reparation of an old fort which lay at

the gates of Dublin; and, being exhauſted with continual fatigue for ſome days, he had retired to reſt, after leaving orders to keep his forces under arms. He was ſuddenly awaked with the noiſe of firing; and, ſtarting from his bed, ſaw every thing already in tumult and confuſion. Jones, an excellent officer, formerly a lawyer, had ſallied out with the reinforcement newly arrived; and, attacking the party employed in repairing the fort, he totally routed them, purſued the advantage, and fell in with the army, which had neglected Ormond's orders. Theſe he ſoon threw into diſorder; put them to flight, in ſpite of all the efforts of the lord lieutenant; chaſed them off the field; ſeized all their tents, baggage, ammunition; and returned victorious to Dublin, after killing a thouſand men, and taking above two thouſand priſoners.[m]

TREDAH STORMED.

This loſs, which threw ſome blemiſh on the military character of Ormond, was irreparable to the royal cauſe. That numerous army, which with ſo much pains and difficulty the lord lieutenant had been collecting for more than a year, was diſperſed in a moment. Cromwell ſoon after arrived in Dublin, where he was welcomed with ſhouts and rejoicings. He haſtened to Tredah. That town was well fortified; Ormond had thrown into it a good garriſon of three thouſand men, under ſir Arthur Aſton, an officer of reputation. He expected that Tredah, lying in the neighbourhood of Dublin, would firſt be attempted by Cromwell, and he was deſirous to employ the enemy ſome time in that ſiege, while he himſelf ſhould repair his broken forces. But Cromwell knew the importance of diſpatch. Having made a breach, he ordered a general aſſault. Though twice repulſed with loſs, he renewed the attack; and himſelf, along with Ireton, led on his men. All oppoſition was overborne by the furious

valour of the troops. The town was taken ſword in hand; and, orders being iſſued to give no quarter, a cruel ſlaughter was made of the garriſon. Even a few who were ſaved by the ſoldiers, ſatiated with blood, were next day miſerably butchered by orders from the general. One perſon alone of the garriſon eſcaped to be a meſſenger of this univerſal havoc and deſtruction.

Cromwell pretended to retaliate, by this ſevere execution, the cruelty of the Iriſh maſſacre: but he well knew that almoſt the whole garriſon was Engliſh; and his juſtice was only a barbarous policy, in order to terrify all other garriſons from reſiſtance. His policy, however, had the deſired effect. Having led the army without delay to Wexford, he began to batter the town. The garriſon, after a ſlight defence, offered to capitulate; but, before they obtained a ceſſation, they imprudently neglected their guards, and the Engliſh army ruſhed in upon them. The ſame ſeverity was exerciſed as at Tredah.

Every town before which Cromwell preſented himſelf now opened its gates without reſiſtance. Roſs, though ſtrongly garriſoned, was ſurrendered by lord Taffe. Having taken Eſtionage, Cromwell threw a bridge over the Barrow, and made himſelf maſter of Paſſage and Carric. The Engliſh had no farther difficulties to encounter than what aroſe from fatigue and the advanced ſeaſon. Fluxes and contagious diſtempers crept in among the ſoldiers, who periſhed in great numbers. Jones himſelf, the brave governor of Dublin, died at Wexford. And Cromwell had ſo far advanced with his decayed army, that he began to find it difficult, either to ſubſiſt in the enemy's country, or retreat to his own garriſon. But, while he was in theſe ſtraits, Corke, Kinſale, and all the Engliſh garriſons in Munſter, deſerted to him, and, opening their gates, reſolved to ſhare the fortunes of their victorious countrymen.

This deſertion of the Engliſh put an end to Ormond's authority, which was already much diminiſhed by the misfortunes at Dublin, Tredah, and Wexford. The Iriſh, actuated by national and religious prejudices, could nô longer be kept in obedience by a proteſtant governor, who was ſo unſucceſsful in all his enterpriſes. The clergy renewed their excommunications againſt him and his adherents, and added the terrors of ſuperſtition to thoſe which aroſe from a victorious enemy. Cromwell, having received a reinforcement from England, again took the field early in the ſpring. He made himſelf maſter of Kilkenny and Clonmel, the only places where he met with any vigorous reſiſtance. The whole frame of the Iriſh union being in a manner diſſolved, Ormond ſoon after left the iſland, and delegated his authority to Clanricarde, who found affairs ſo deſperate as to admit of no remedy. The Iriſh were glad to embrace baniſhment as a refuge. Above forty thouſand men paſſed into foreign ſervice; and Cromwell, well pleaſed to free the iſland from enemies who never could be cordially reconciled to the Engliſh, gave them full liberty and leiſure for their embarkation.

While Cromwell proceeded with ſuch uninterrupted ſucceſs in Ireland, which in the ſpace of nine months he had almoſt entirely ſubdued, fortune was preparing for him a new ſcene of victory and triumph in Scotland. Charles was at the Hague when ſir Joſeph Douglas brought him intelligence that he was proclaimed king by the Scottiſh parliament. At the ſame time Douglas informed him of the hard conditions annexed to the proclamation, and extremely damped that joy which might ariſe from his being recogniſed ſovereign in one of his kingdoms. Charles too conſidered that thoſe who pretended to acknowledge his title were at that very time in actual rebellion againſt his family, and would be ſure to intruſt very little authority in his hands, and ſcarcely would afford him perſonal liberty and ſe-

curity. As the proſpect of affairs in Ireland was at that time not unpromiſing, he intended rather to try his fortune in that kingdom, from which he expected more dutiful ſubmiſſion and obedience.

Meanwhile he found it expedient to depart from Holland. The people in the United Provinces were much attached to his intereſts. Beſides his connexion with the family of Orange, which was extremely beloved by the populace, all men regarded with compaſſion his helpleſs condition, and expreſſed the greateſt abhorrence againſt the murder of his father; a deed to which nothing, they thought, but the rage of fanaticiſm and faction could have impelled the parliament. But, though the public in general bore great favour to the king, the States were uneaſy at his preſence. They dreaded the parliament, ſo formidable by their power, and ſo proſperous in all their enterpriſes. They apprehended the moſt precipitate reſolutions from men of ſuch violent and haughty diſpoſitions. And, after the murder of Doriſlaus, they found it ſtill more neceſſary to ſatisfy the Engliſh commonwealth by removing the king to a diſtance from them.

Doriſlaus, though a native of Holland, had lived long in England; and, being employed as aſſiſtant to the high court of juſtice, which condemned the late king, he had riſen to great credit and favour with the ruling party. They ſent him envoy to Holland; but no ſooner had he arrived at the Hague than he was ſet upon by ſome royaliſts, chiefly retainers to Montroſe. They ruſhed into the room where he was ſitting with ſome company, dragged him from the table, put him to death as the firſt victim to their murdered ſovereign, very leiſurely and peaceably ſeparated themſelves; and, though orders were iſſued by the magiſtrates to arreſt them, theſe were executed with ſuch ſlowneſs and reluctance, that the criminals had all of them the opportunity of making their eſcape.

Charles, having paſſed ſome time at Paris, where no aſſiſtance was given him, and even few civilities were paid him, made his retreat into Jerſey, where his authority was ſtill acknowledged. Here Winram, laird of Liberton, came to him as deputy from the committee of eſtates in Scotland, and informed him of the conditions to which he muſt neceſſarily ſubmit before he could be admitted to the exerciſe of his authority. Conditions more ſevere were never impoſed by ſubjects upon their ſovereign; but, as the affairs of Ireland began to decline, and the king found it no longer ſafe to venture himſelf in that iſland, he gave a civil anſwer to Winram, and deſired commiſſioners to meet him at Breda, in order to enter into a treaty with regard to theſe conditions.

COVENANTERS.

THE earls of Caſſilis and Lothian, lord Burley, the laird of Liberton, and other commiſſioners, arrived at Breda; but without any power of treating: the king muſt ſubmit, without reſerve, to the terms impoſed upon him. The terms were, that he ſhould iſſue a proclamation, baniſhing from court all excommunicated perſons; that is, all thoſe who, either under Hamilton or Montroſe, had ventured their lives for his family; that no Engliſh ſubject, who had ſerved againſt the parliament, ſhould be allowed to approach him; that he ſhould bind himſelf, by his royal promiſe, to take the covenant; that he ſhould ratify all acts of parliament by which preſbyterian government, the directory of worſhip, the confeſſion of faith, and the catechiſm, were eſtabliſhed; and that in civil affairs he ſhould entirely conform himſelf to the direction of parliament, and in eccleſiaſtical to that of the aſſembly. Theſe propoſals the commiſſioners, after paſſing ſome time in ſermons and prayers, in order to

expreſs the more determined reſolution, very ſolemnly delivered to the king.

The king's friends were divided with regard to the part which he ſhould act in this critical conjuncture. Moſt of his Engliſh counſellors diſſuaded him from accepting conditions ſo diſadvantageous and diſhonourable. They ſaid that the men who now governed Scotland were the moſt furious and bigoted of that party which, notwithſtanding his gentle government, had firſt excited a rebellion againſt the late king; after the moſt unlimited conceſſions had renewed their rebellion, and ſtopped the progreſs of his victories in England; and, after he had intruſted his perſon to them in his uttermoſt diſtreſs, had baſely ſold him, together with their own honour, to his barbarous enemies: that they had as yet ſhewn no marks of repentance; and, even in the terms which they now propoſed, diſplayed the ſame antimonarchical principles, and the ſame jealouſy of their ſovereign, by which they had ever been actuated: that nothing could be more diſhonourable than that the king, in his firſt enterpriſe, ſhould ſacrifice, merely for the empty name of royalty, thoſe principles for which his father had died a martyr, and in which he himſelf had been ſtrictly educated: that by this hypocriſy he might loſe the royaliſts, who alone were ſincerely attached to him; but never would gain the preſbyterians, who were averſe to his family and his cauſe, and would aſcribe his compliance merely to policy and neceſſity: that the Scots had refuſed to give him any aſſurances of their intending to reſtore him to the throne of England; and, could they even be brought to make ſuch an attempt, it had ſufficiently appeared, by the event of Hamilton's engagement, how unequal their force was to ſo great an enterpriſe: that, on the firſt check which they ſhould receive, Argyle and his partiſans would lay hold of the quickeſt expedient for reconciling themſelves to the Engliſh par-

liament, and would betray the king, as they had done his father, into the hands of his enemies: and that, however deſperate the royal cauſe, it muſt ſtill be regarded as highly imprudent in the king to make a ſacrifice of his honour, where the ſole purchaſe was to endanger his life or liberty.

The earl of Lanerk, now duke of Hamilton, the earl of Lauderdale, and others of that party, who had been baniſhed their country for the late engagement, were then with the king; and, being deſirous of returning home in his retinue, they joined the opinion of the young duke of Buckingham, and earneſtly preſſed him to ſubmit to the conditions required of him. It was urged that nothing would more gratify the king's enemies than to ſee him fall into the ſnare laid for him, and by ſo ſcrupulous a nicety leave the poſſeſſion of his dominions to thoſe who deſired but a pretence for excluding him: that Argyle, not daring ſo far to oppoſe the bent of the nation as to throw off all allegiance to his ſovereign, had embraced this expedient, by which he hoped to make Charles dethrone himſelf, and refuſe a kingdom which was offered him: that it was not to be doubted but the ſame national ſpirit, aſſiſted by Hamilton and his party, would riſe ſtill higher in favour of their prince after he had intruſted himſelf to their fidelity, and would much abate the rigour of the conditions now impoſed upon him: that, whatever might be the preſent intentions of the ruling party, they muſt unavoidably be engaged in a war with England, and muſt accept the aſſiſtance of the king's friends of all parties, in order to ſupport themſelves againſt a power ſo much ſuperior: that, how much ſoever a ſteady, uniform conduct might have been ſuitable to the advanced age and ſtrict engagements of the late king, no one would throw any blame on a young prince for complying with conditions which neceſſity had extorted from him: that even the rigour of thoſe principles profeſſed by his

father, though with ſome it had exalted his character, had been extremely prejudicial to his intereſts; nor could any thing be more ſerviceable to the royal cauſe than to give all parties room to hope for more equal and more indulgent maxims of government: and that, where affairs were reduced to ſo deſperate a ſituation, dangers ought little to be regarded; and the king's honour lay rather in ſhewing ſome early ſymptoms of courage and activity than in chooſing ſtrictly a party among theological controverſies, with which it might be ſuppoſed he was as yet very little acquainted.

Theſe arguments, ſeconded by the advice of the queen-mother and of the prince of Orange, the king's brother-in-law, who both of them thought it ridiculous to refuſe a kingdom merely from regard to epiſcopacy, had great influence on Charles. But what chiefly determined him to comply was the account brought him of the fate of Montroſe, who, with all the circumſtances of rage and contumely, had been put to death by his zealous countrymen. Though in this inſtance the king ſaw more evidently the furious ſpirit by which the Scots were actuated, he had now no farther reſource, and was obliged to grant whatever was demanded of him.

Montroſe, having laid down his arms at the command of the late king, had retired into France, and, contrary to his natural diſpoſition, had lived for ſome time unactive at Paris. He there became acquainted with the famous cardinal de Retz; and that penetrating judge celebrates him, in his memoirs, as one of thoſe heroes of whom there are no longer any remains in the world, and who are only to be met with in Plutarch. Deſirous of improving his martial genius, he took a journey to Germany, was careſſed by the emperor, received the rank of mareſchal, and propoſed to levy a regiment for the Imperial ſervice. While employed for that purpoſe in the Low Countries he heard of

the tragical death of the king; and at the ſame time received from his young maſter a renewal of his commiſſion of captain-general in Scotland.[a] His ardent and daring ſpirit needed but this authority to put him in action. He gathered followers in Holland and the north of Germany, whom his great reputation allured to him. The king of Denmark and duke of Holſtein ſent him ſome ſmall ſupply of money; the queen of Sweden furniſhed him with arms; the prince of Orange with ſhips: and Montroſe, haſtening his enterpriſe, left the king's agreement with the Scots ſhould make him revoke his commiſſion, ſet out for the Orkneys with about five hundred men, moſt of them Germans. Theſe were all the preparations which he could make againſt a kingdom ſettled in domeſtic peace, ſupported by a diſciplined army, fully appriſed of his enterpriſe, and prepared againſt him. Some of his retainers having told him of a prophecy, that 'to him and him alone it was reſerved to reſtore the king's authority in all his dominions,' he lent a willing ear to ſuggeſtions which, however ill-grounded or improbable, were ſo conformable to his own daring character.

MONTROSE TAKEN PRISONER. 1650.

He armed ſeveral of the inhabitants of the Orkneys, though an unwarlike people, and carried them over with him to Caithneſs; hoping that the general affection to the king's ſervice, and the fame of his former exploits, would make the Highlanders flock to his ſtandard. But all men were now haraſſed and fatigued with wars and diſorders; many of thoſe who formerly adhered to him had been ſeverely puniſhed by the covenanters; and no proſpect of ſucceſs was entertained in oppoſition to ſo great a force as was drawn together againſt him. But, however weak Montroſe's army, the memory of paſt events ſtruck a great terror

into the committee of eſtates. They immediately ordered Leſley and Holborne to march againſt him with an army of four thouſand men. Strahan was ſent before, with a body of cavalry, to check his progreſs. He fell unexpectedly on Montroſe, who had no horſe to bring him intelligence. The royaliſts were put to flight; all of them either killed or taken priſoners; and Montroſe himſelf, having put on the diſguiſe of a peaſant, was perfidiouſly delivered into the hands of his enemies by a friend to whom he had intruſted his perſon.

All the inſolence which ſucceſs can produce in ungenerous minds was exerciſed by the covenanters againſt Montroſe, whom they ſo much hated and ſo much dreaded. Theological antipathy farther increaſed their indignities towards a perſon whom they regarded as impious on account of the excommunication which had been pronounced againſt him. Leſley led him about for ſeveral days in the ſame low habit under which he had diſguiſed himſelf. The vulgar, wherever he paſſed, were inſtigated to reproach and vilify him. When he came to Edinburgh every circumſtance of elaborate rage and inſult was put in practice by order of the parliament. At the gate of the city he was met by the magiſtrates, and put into a new cart, purpoſely made with a high chair or bench, where he was placed, that the people might have a full view of him: he was bound with a cord, drawn over his breaſt and ſhoulders, and faſtened through holes made in the cart: the hangman then took off the hat of the noble priſoner, and rode himſelf before the cart in his livery, and with his bonnet on; the other officers, who were taken priſoners with the marquis, walking two and two before them.

The populace, more generous and humane, when they ſaw ſo mighty a change of fortune in this great man, ſo lately their dread and terror, into whoſe hands the magiſtrates, a few years before, had delivered on their knees the keys of the city, were

ſtruck with compaſſion, and viewed him with ſilent tears and admiration. The preachers, next Sunday, exclaimed againſt this movement of rebel nature, as they termed it; and reproached the people with their profane tenderneſs towards the capital enemy of piety and religion.

When he was carried before the parliament, which was then ſitting, Loudon the chancellor, in a violent declamation, reproached him with the breach of the national covenant, which he had ſubſcribed; his rebellion againſt God, the king, and the kingdom; and the many horrible murders, treaſons, and impieties, for which he was now to be brought to condign puniſhment. Montroſe, in his anſwer, maintained the ſame ſuperiority above his enemies to which by his fame and great actions, as well as by the conſciouſneſs of a good cauſe, he was juſtly entitled. He told the parliament that, ſince the king, as he was informed, had ſo far avowed their authority as to enter into treaty with them, he now appeared uncovered before their tribunal; a reſpect which, while they ſtood in open defiance to their ſovereign, they would in vain have required of him: that he acknowledged, with infinite ſhame and remorſe, the errors of his early conduct, when their plauſible pretences had ſeduced him to tread with them the paths of rebellion, and bear arms againſt his prince and country: that his following ſervices, he hoped, had ſufficiently teſtified his repentance; and his death would now atone for that guilt, the only one with which he could juſtly reproach himſelf: that in all his warlike enterpriſes he was warranted by that commiſſion which he had received from his and their maſter, againſt whoſe lawful authority they had erected their ſtandard: that to venture his life for his ſovereign was the leaſt part of his merit; he had even thrown down his arms in obedience to the ſacred commands of the king; and had reſigned to them the victory, which, in defiance

of all their efforts, he was ſtill enabled to diſpute with them: that no blood had ever been ſhed by him but in the field of battle; and many perſons were now in his eye, many now dared to pronounce ſentence of death upon him, whoſe life, forfeited by the laws of war, he had formerly ſaved from the fury of the ſoldiers: that he was ſorry to find no better teſtimony of their return to allegiance than the murder of ſo faithful a ſubject, in whoſe death the king's commiſſion muſt be at once ſo highly injured and affronted: that, as to himſelf, they had in vain endeavoured to vilify and degrade him by all their ſtudied indignities; the juſtice of his cauſe, he knew, would ennoble any fortune; nor had he other affliction than to ſee the authority of his prince, with which he was inveſted, treated with ſo much ignominy: and that he now joyfully followed, by a like unjuſt ſentence, his late ſovereign; and ſhould be happy if, in his future deſtiny, he could follow him to the ſame bliſsful manſions, where his piety and humane virtues had already, without doubt, ſecured him an eternal recompenſe.

Montroſe's ſentence was next pronounced againſt him, 'that he, James Graham,' (for this was the only name they vouchſafed to give him) 'ſhould next day be carried to Edinburgh croſs, and there be hanged on a gibbet, thirty feet high, for the ſpace of three hours; then be taken down, his head be cut off upon a ſcaffold, and affixed to the priſon; his legs and arms be ſtuck up on the four chief towns of the kingdom; his body be buried in the place appropriated for common malefactors, except the church, upon his repentance, ſhould take off his excommunication.'

The clergy, hoping that the terrors of immediate death had now given them an advantage over their enemy, flocked about him, and inſulted over his fallen fortunes. They pronounced his damnation, and aſſured him that the judgment, which he

was ſo ſoon to ſuffer, would prove but an eaſy prologue to that which he muſt undergo hereafter. They next offered to pray with him: but he was too well acquainted with thoſe forms of imprecation which they called prayers. 'Lord, vouchſafe yet to touch the obdurate heart of this proud incorrigible ſinner; this wicked, perjured, traitorous, and profane perſon, who refuſes to hearken to the voice of thy church.' Such were the petitions which he expected they would, according to cuſtom, offer up for him. He told them that they were a miſerably deluded and deluding people, and would ſhortly bring their country under the moſt inſupportable ſervitude to which any nation had ever been reduced. 'For my part,' added he, 'I am much prouder to have my head affixed to the place where it is ſentenced to ſtand, than to have my picture hang in the king's bed-chamber. So far from being ſorry that my quarters are to be ſent to four cities of the kingdom, I wiſh I had limbs enow to be diſperſed into all the cities of Chriſtendom, there to remain as teſtimonies in favour of the cauſe for which I ſuffer.' This ſentiment that very evening, while in priſon, he threw into verſe. The poem remains; a ſignal monument of his heroic ſpirit, and no deſpicable proof of his poetical genius.

MONTROSE EXECUTED.

Now was led forth, amidſt the inſults of his enemies and the tears of the people, this man of illuſtrious birth, and of the greateſt renown in the nation, to ſuffer, for his adhering to the laws of his country and the rights of his ſovereign, the ignominious death deſtined to the meaneſt malefactor. Every attempt, which the inſolence of the governing party had made to ſubdue his ſpirit, had hitherto proved fruitleſs: they made yet one effort more, in this laſt and melancholy ſcene, when all en-

mity, ariſing from motives merely human, is commonly ſoftened and diſarmed; the executioner brought that book, which had been publiſhed in elegant Latin, of his great military actions, and tied it by a cord about his neck. Montroſe ſmiled at this new inſtance of their malice. He thanked them, however, for their officious zeal; and ſaid that he bore this teſtimony of his bravery and loyalty with more pride than he had ever worn the garter. Having aſked whether they had any more indignities to put upon him, and renewing ſome devout ejaculations, he patiently endured the laſt act of the executioner.

Thus periſhed, in the thirty-eighth year of his age, the gallant marquis of Montroſe; the man whoſe military genius, both by valour and conduct, had ſhone forth beyond any which, during theſe civil diſorders, had appeared in the three kingdoms. The finer arts too he had, in his youth, ſucceſsfully cultivated; and whatever was ſublime, elegant, or noble, touched his great ſoul. Nor was he inſenſible to the pleaſures either of ſociety or of love. Something, however, of the vaſt and unbounded characteriſed his actions and deportment; and it was merely by an heroic effort of duty that he brought his mind, impatient of ſuperiority, and even of equality, to pay ſuch unlimited ſubmiſſion to the will of his ſovereign.

The vengeance of the covenanters was not ſatisfied with Montroſe's execution. Urrey, whoſe inconſtancy now led him to take part with the king, ſuffered about the ſame time; Spotiſwood of Daerſie, a youth of eighteen; ſir Francis Hay of Dalgetie, and colonel Sibbald, all of them of birth and character, underwent a like fate. Theſe were taken priſoners with Montroſe. The marquis of Huntley, about a year before, had alſo fallen a victim to the ſeverity of the covenanters.

The paſt ſcene diſplays in a full light the barbarity of this theological faction; the ſequel will ſufficiently diſplay their abſurdity.

THE king, in conſequence of his agreement with the commiſſioners of Scotland, ſet ſail for that country; and, being eſcorted by ſeven Dutch ſhips of war, who were ſent to guard the herring fiſhery, he arrived in the frith of Cromarty. Before he was permitted to land he was required to ſign the covenant; and many ſermons and lectures were made him, exhorting him to perſevere in that holy confederacy.[o] Hamilton, Lauderdale, Dumfermling, and other noblemen of that party whom they called Engagers, were immediately ſeparated from him, and obliged to retire to their houſes, where they lived in a private manner without truſt or authority. None of his Engliſh friends, who had ſerved his father, were allowed to remain in the kingdom. The king himſelf found that he was conſidered as a mere pageant of ſtate, and that the few remains of royalty which he poſſeſſed ſerved only to draw on him the greater indignities. One of the quarters of Montroſe, his faithful ſervant, who had born his commiſſion, had been ſent to Aberdeen, and was ſtill allowed to hang over the gates when he paſſed by that place.[p] The general aſſembly, and afterwards the committee of eſtates and the army who were entirely governed by the aſſembly, ſet forth a public declaration, in which they proteſted that 'they did not eſpouſe any malignant quarrel or party, but fought merely on their former grounds or principles; that they diſclaimed all the ſins and guilt of the king, and of his houſe; nor would they own him or his intereſt, otherwiſe than with a ſubordination to God, and ſo far as he owned and proſecuted the cauſe of God, and acknowledged the ſins of his houſe,[q] and of his former ways.'

The king, lying entirely at mercy, and having no aſſurance of life or liberty farther than was agreeable to the fancy of thoſe

auſtere zealots, was conſtrained to embrace a meaſure which nothing but the neceſſity of his affairs, and his great youth and inexperience, could excuſe. He iſſued a declaration ſuch as they required of him.[r] He there gave thanks for the merciful diſpenſations of providence, by which he was recovered from the ſnare of evil counſel, had attained a full perſuaſion of the righteouſneſs of the covenant, and was induced to caſt himſelf and his intereſts wholly upon God: he deſired to be deeply humbled and afflicted in ſpirit becauſe of his father's following wicked meaſures, oppoſing the covenant and the work of reformation, and ſhedding the blood of God's people throughout all his dominions: he lamented the idolatry of his mother, and the toleration of it in his father's houſe; a matter of great offence, he ſaid, to all the proteſtant churches, and a great provocation to him who is a jealous God, viſiting the ſins of the father upon the children: he profeſſed that he would have no enemies but the enemies of the covenant; and that he deteſted all popery, ſuperſtition, prelacy, hereſy, ſchiſm, and profaneneſs; and was reſolved not to tolerate, much leſs to countenance, any of them in any of his dominions: he declared that he ſhould never love or favour thoſe who had ſo little conſcience as to follow his intereſts, in preference to the goſpel and the kingdom of Jeſus Chriſt: and he expreſſed his hope that, whatever ill ſucceſs his former guilt might have drawn upon his cauſe, yet now, having obtained mercy to be on God's ſide, and to acknowledge his own cauſe ſubordinate to that of God, divine providence would crown his arms with victory.

Still the covenanters and the clergy were diffident of the king's ſincerity. The facility which he diſcovered in yielding whatever was required of him made them ſuſpect that he regarded all his conceſſions merely as ridiculous farces, to which he muſt of neceſſity ſubmit. They had another trial prepared

for him. Inſtead of the ſolemnity of his coronation, which was delayed, they were reſolved that he ſhould paſs through a public humiliation, and do penance before the whole people. They ſent him twelve articles of repentance, which he was to acknowledge; and the king had agreed that he would ſubmit to this indignity. The various tranſgreſſions of his father and grandfather, together with the idolatry of his mother, are again enumerated and aggravated in theſe articles; and farther declarations were inſiſted on, that he ſought the reſtoration of his rights for the ſole advancement of religion, and in ſubordination to the kingdom of Chriſt.[s] In ſhort, having exalted the altar above the throne, and brought royalty under their feet, the clergy were reſolved to trample on it, and vilify it, by every inſtance of contumely which their preſent influence enabled them to impoſe upon their unhappy prince.

Charles in the mean time found his authority entirely annihilated, as well as his character degraded. He was conſulted in no public meaſure. He was not called to aſſiſt at any councils. His favour was ſufficient to diſcredit any pretender to office or advancement. All efforts which he made to unite the oppoſite parties increaſed the ſuſpicion which the covenanters had entertained of him, as if he were not entirely their own. Argyle, who by ſubtleties and compliances was partly led and partly governed by this wild faction, ſtill turned a deaf ear to all advances which the king made to enter into confidence with him. Malignants and Engagers continued to be the objects of general hatred and perſecution; and whoever was obnoxious to the clergy failed not to have one or other of theſe epithets affixed to him. The fanaticiſm which prevailed, being ſo full of ſour and angry principles, and ſo overcharged with various antipathies, had acquired a new object of abhorrence; theſe were the Sorcerers. So prevalent was the opinion of witchcraft, that

great numbers, accuſed of that crime, were burnt by ſentence of the magiſtrates throughout all parts of Scotland. In a village near Berwick, which contained only fourteen houſes, fourteen perſons were puniſhed by fire;[t] and it became a ſcience, every where much ſtudied and cultivated, to diſtinguiſh a true witch by proper trials and ſymptoms.[u]

The advance of the Engliſh army under Cromwell was not able to appeaſe or ſoften the animoſities among the parties in Scotland. The clergy were ſtill reſolute to exclude all but their more zealous adherents. As ſoon as the Engliſh parliament found that the treaty between the king and the Scots would probably terminate in an accommodation, they made preparations for a war which they ſaw would in the end prove inevitable. Cromwell, having broken the force and courage of the Iriſh, was ſent for; and he left the command of Ireland to Ireton, who governed that kingdom in the character of deputy, and with vigilance and induſtry perſevered in the work of ſubduing and expelling the natives.

It was expected that Fairfax, who ſtill retained the name of general, would continue to act againſt Scotland, and appear at the head of the forces; a ſtation for which he was well qualified, and where alone he made any figure. But Fairfax, though he had allowed the army to make uſe of his name in murdering their ſovereign and offering violence to the parliament, had entertained unſurmountable ſcruples againſt invading the Scots, whom he conſidered as zealous preſbyterians, and united to England by the ſacred bands of the covenant. He was farther diſguſted at the extremities into which he had already been hurried; and was confirmed in his repugnance by the exhortations of his wife, who had great influence over him, and was herſelf much governed by the preſbyterian clergy. A committee of parliament was ſent to reaſon with him, and Cromwell was of

the number. In vain did they urge that the Scots had firſt broken the covenant by their invaſion of England under Hamilton, and that they would ſurely renew their hoſtile attempts if not prevented by the vigorous meaſures of the commonwealth. Cromwell, who knew the rigid inflexibility of Fairfax in every thing which he regarded as matter of principle, ventured to ſolicit him with the utmoſt earneſtneſs; and he went ſo far as to ſhed tears of grief and vexation on the occaſion. No one could ſuſpect any ambition in the man who laboured ſo zealouſly to retain his general in that high office which he knew he himſelf was entitled to fill. The ſame warmth of temper which made Cromwell a frantic enthuſiaſt rendered him the moſt dangerous of hypocrites; and it was to this turn of mind, as much as to his courage and capacity, that he owed all his wonderful ſucceſſes. By the contagious ferment of his zeal he engaged every one to co-operate with him in his meaſures; and, entering eaſily and affectionately into every part which he was diſpoſed to act, he was enabled, even after multiplied deceits, to cover, under a tempeſt of paſſion, all his crooked ſchemes and profound artifices.

Fairfax having reſigned his commiſſion, it was beſtowed on Cromwell, who was declared captain-general of all the forces in England. This command, in a commonwealth which ſtood entirely by arms, was of the utmoſt importance, and was the chief ſtep which this ambitious politician had yet made towards ſovereign power. He immediately marched his forces, and entered Scotland with an army of ſixteen thouſand men.

The command of the Scottiſh army was given to Leſley, an experienced officer, who formed a very proper plan of defence. He entrenched himſelf in a fortified camp between Edinburgh and Leith, and took care to remove from the counties of Merſe and the Lothians every thing which could ſerve to the ſubſiſt-

ence of the Engliſh army. Cromwell advanced to the Scotch camp, and endeavoured by every expedient to bring Leſley to a battle. The prudent Scotchman knew that, though ſuperior in numbers, his army was much inferior in diſcipline to the Engliſh; and he carefully kept himſelf within his entrenchments. By ſkirmiſhes and ſmall rencounters he tried to confirm the ſpirits of his ſoldiers; and he was ſucceſsful in theſe enterpriſes. His army daily increaſed both in numbers and courage. The king came to the camp; and, having exerted himſelf in an action, gained on the affections of the ſoldiery, who were more deſirous of ſerving under a young prince of ſpirit and vivacity than under a committee of talking gown-men. The clergy were alarmed: they ordered Charles immediately to leave the camp. They alſo purged it carefully of about four thouſand Malignants and Engagers, whoſe zeal had led them to attend the king, and who were the ſoldiers of chief credit and experience [w] in the nation. They then concluded that they had an army compoſed entirely of ſaints, and could not be beaten. They murmured extremely, not only againſt their prudent general, but alſo againſt the Lord, on account of his delays in giving them deliverance;[x] and they plainly told him that, if he would not ſave them from the Engliſh ſectaries, he ſhould no longer be their God.[y] An advantage having offered itſelf on a Sunday, they hindered the general from making uſe of it, leſt he ſhould involve the nation in the guilt of ſabbath-breaking.

Cromwell found himſelf in a very bad ſituation. He had no proviſions but what he received by ſea: he had not had the precaution to bring theſe in ſufficient quantities; and his army was reduced to difficulties. He retired to Dunbar. Leſley followed him, and encamped on the heights of Lammermure, which overlook that town. There lay many difficult paſſes between Dunbar and Berwick, and of theſe Leſley had taken poſſeſſion. The

Engliſh general was reduced to extremities: he had even embraced a reſolution of ſending by ſea all his foot and artillery to England, and of breaking through, at all hazards, with his cavalry. The madneſs of the Scottiſh eccleſiaſtics ſaved him from this loſs and diſhonour.

BATTLE OF DUNBAR.

NIGHT and day the miniſters had been wreſtling with the Lord in prayer, as they termed it; and they fancied that they had at laſt obtained the victory. Revelations, they ſaid, were made them, that the ſectarian and heretical army, together with Agag, meaning Cromwell, was delivered into their hands. Upon the faith of theſe viſions they forced their general, in ſpite of his remonſtrances, to deſcend into the plain, with a view of attacking the Engliſh in their retreat. Cromwell, looking through a glaſs, ſaw the enemy's camp in motion; and foretold, without the help of revelations, that the Lord had delivered them into his hands. He gave orders immediately for an attack. In this battle it was eaſily obſerved that nothing, in military actions, can ſupply the place of diſcipline and experience; and that, in the preſence of real danger, where men are not accuſtomed to it, the fumes of enthuſiaſm preſently diſſipate, and loſe their influence. The Scots, though double in number to the Engliſh, were ſoon put to flight, and purſued with great ſlaughter. The chief, if not only, reſiſtance was made by one regiment of Highlanders, that part of the army which was the leaſt infected with fanaticiſm. No victory could be more complete than this which was obtained by Cromwell. About three thouſand of the enemy were ſlain, and nine thouſand taken priſoners. Cromwell purſued his advantage, and took poſſeſſion of Edinburgh and Leith. The remnant of the Scottiſh army fled to Stirling. The approach

of the winter ſeaſon, and an ague which ſeized Cromwell, kept him from puſhing the victory any farther.

The clergy made great lamentations, and told the Lord that to them it was little to ſacrifice their lives and eſtates, but to him it was a great loſs to ſuffer his elect to be deſtroyed.[z] They publiſhed a declaration, containing the cauſe of their late miſfortunes. Theſe viſitations they aſcribed to the manifold provocations of the king's houſe, of which they feared he had not yet thoroughly repented; the ſecret intruſion of malignants into the king's family, and even into the camp; the leaving of a moſt malignant and profane guard of horſe, who, being ſent for to be purged, came two days before the defeat, and were allowed to fight with the army; the owning of the king's quarrel by many without ſubordination to religion and liberty; and the carnal ſelf-ſeeking of ſome, together with the neglect of family prayers by others.

Cromwell, having been ſo ſucceſsful in the war of the ſword, took up the pen againſt the Scottiſh eccleſiaſtics. He wrote them ſome polemical letters, in which he maintained the chief points of the independent theology. He took care likewiſe to retort on them their favourite argument of providence; and aſked them, whether the Lord had not declared againſt them? But the miniſters thought that the ſame events, which to their enemies were judgments, to them were trials; and they replied that the Lord had only hid his face for a time from Jacob. But Cromwell inſiſted that the appeal had been made to God in the moſt expreſs and ſolemn manner, and that in the fields of Dunbar an irrevocable deciſion had been awarded in favour of the Engliſh army.[a]

The defeat of the Scots was regarded by the king as a fortunate event. The armies, which fought on both ſides, were almoſt equally his enemies; and the vanquiſhed were now obliged

to give him ſome more authority, and apply to him for ſupport. The parliament was ſummoned to meet at St. Johnſtone's. Hamilton, Lauderdale, and all the engagers, were admitted into court and camp, on condition of doing public penance, and expreſſing repentance for their late tranſgreſſions. Some malignants alſo crept in under various pretences. The intended humiliation or penance of the king was changed into the ceremony of his coronation, which was performed at Scone with great pomp and ſolemnity. But, amidſt all this appearance of reſpect, Charles remained in the hands of the moſt rigid covenanters; and, though treated with civility and courteſy by Argyle, a man of parts and addreſs, he was little better than a priſoner, and was ſtill expoſed to all the rudeneſs and pedantry of the eccleſiaſtics.

This young prince was in a ſituation which very ill ſuited his temper and diſpoſition. All thoſe good qualities which he poſſeſſed, his affability, his wit, his gaiety, his gentleman-like, diſengaged behaviour, were here ſo many vices; and his love of eaſe, liberty, and pleaſure, was regarded as the higheſt enormity. Though artful in the practice of courtly diſſimulation, the ſanctified ſtyle was utterly unknown to him; and he never could mould his deportment into that ſtarched grimace which the covenanters required as an infallible mark of converſion. The duke of Buckingham was the only Engliſh courtier allowed to attend him; and, by his ingenious talent for ridicule, he had rendered himſelf extremely agreeable to his maſter. While ſo many objects of deriſion ſurrounded them it was difficult to be altogether inſenſible to the temptation, and wholly to ſuppreſs the laugh. Obliged to attend from morning to night at prayers and ſermons, they betrayed evident ſymptoms of wearineſs or contempt. The clergy never could eſteem the king ſufficiently regenerated: and, by continual exhortations, remonſtrances, and

reprimands, they ſtill endeavoured to bring him to a juſter ſenſe of his ſpiritual duty.

The king's paſſion for the fair could not altogether be reſtrained. He had once been obſerved uſing ſome familiarities with a young woman; and a committee of miniſters was appointed to reprove him for a behaviour ſo unbecoming a covenanted monarch. The ſpokeſman of the committee, one Douglaſs, began with a ſevere aſpect, informed the king that great ſcandal had been given to the godly, enlarged on the heinous nature of ſin, and concluded with exhorting his majeſty, whenever he was diſpoſed to amuſe himſelf, to be more careful, for the future, in ſhutting the windows. This delicacy, ſo unuſual to the place and to the character of the man, was remarked by the king; and he never forgot the obligation.

The king, ſhocked at all the indignities, and perhaps ſtill more tired with all the formalities, to which he was obliged to ſubmit, made an attempt to regain his liberty. General Middleton, at the head of ſome royaliſts, being proſcribed by the covenanters, kept in the mountains, expecting ſome opportunity of ſerving his maſter. The king reſolved to join this body: he ſecretly made his eſcape from Argyle, and fled towards the Highlands. Colonel Montgomery, with a troop of horſe, was ſent in purſuit of him. He overtook the king, and perſuaded him to return. The royaliſts being too weak to ſupport him, Charles was the more eaſily induced to comply. This incident procured him afterwards better treatment and more authority, the covenanters being afraid of driving him, by their rigours, to ſome deſperate reſolution. Argyle renewed his courtſhip to the king; and the king, with equal diſſimulation, pretended to repoſe great confidence in Argyle. He even went ſo far as to drop hints of his intention to marry that nobleman's daughter: but he had to do with a man too wiſe to be ſeduced by ſuch groſs artifices.

As ſoon as the ſeaſon would permit, the Scottiſh army was aſſembled under Hamilton and Leſley; and the king was allowed to join the camp. The forces of the weſtern counties, notwithſtanding the imminent danger which threatened their country, were reſolute not to unite their cauſe with that of an army which admitted any engagers or malignants among them; and they kept in a body apart under Ker. They called themſelves the 'Proteſters;' and their frantic clergy declaimed equally againſt the king and againſt Cromwell. The other party were denominated 'Reſolutioners;' and theſe diſtinctions continued long after to divide and agitate the kingdom.

Charles encamped at the Torwood; and his generals reſolved to conduct themſelves by the ſame cautious maxims which, ſo long as they were embraced, had been ſucceſsful during the former campaign. The town of Stirling lay at his back, and the whole north ſupplied him with proviſions. Strong entrenchments defended his front; and it was in vain that Cromwell made every attempt to bring him to an engagement. After loſing much time, the Engliſh general ſent Lambert over the frith into Fife, with an intention of cutting off the proviſions of the enemy. Lambert fell upon Holborne and Brown, who commanded a party of the Scots, and put them to rout with great ſlaughter. Cromwell alſo paſſed over with his whole army; and, lying at the back of the king, made it impoſſible for him to keep his poſt any longer.

Charles, reduced to deſpair, embraced a reſolution worthy of a young prince contending for empire. Having the way open, he reſolved immediately to march into England; where he expected that all his friends, and all thoſe who were diſcontented with the preſent government, would flock to his ſtandard. He perſuaded the generals to enter into the ſame views; and with one conſent the army, to the number of fourteen thouſand men,

roſe from their camp, and advanced by great journies towards the ſouth.

Cromwell was ſurpriſed at this movement of the royal army. Wholly intent on offending his enemy, he had expoſed his friends to imminent danger, and ſaw the king with numerous forces marching into England, where his preſence, from the general hatred which prevailed againſt the parliament, was capable of producing ſome great revolution. But, if this conduct was an overſight in Cromwell, he quickly repaired it by his vigilance and activity. He diſpatched letters to the parliament, exhorting them not to be diſmayed at the approach of the Scots: he ſent orders every where for aſſembling forces to oppoſe the king: he ordered Lambert with a body of cavalry to hang upon the rear of the royal army, and infeſt their march: and he himſelf, leaving Monk with ſeven thouſand men to complete the reduction of Scotland, followed the king with all the expedition poſſible.

Charles found himſelf diſappointed in his expectations of increaſing his army. The Scots, terrified at the proſpect of ſo hazardous an enterpriſe, fell off in great numbers. The Engliſh preſbyterians, having no warning given them of the king's approach, were not prepared to join him. To the royaliſts this meaſure was equally unexpected; and they were farther deterred from joining the Scottiſh army by the orders which the committee of miniſters had iſſued, not to admit any, even in this deſperate extremity, who would not ſubſcribe the covenant. The earl of Derby, leaving the iſle of Man, where he had hitherto maintained his independence, was employed in levying forces in Cheſhire and Lancaſhire; but was ſoon ſuppreſſed by a party of the parliamentary army: and the king, when he arrived at Worceſter, found that his forces, extremely haraſſed by a haſty and fatiguing march, were not

more numerous than when he roſe from his camp in the Torwood.

BATTLE OF WORCESTER. 1651.

Such is the influence of eſtabliſhed government, that the commonwealth, though founded in uſurpation the moſt unjuſt and unpopular, had authority ſufficient to raiſe every where the militia of the counties; and theſe, united with the regular forces, bent all their efforts againſt the king. With an army of about thirty thouſand men Cromwell fell upon Worceſter; and, attacking it on all ſides, and meeting with little reſiſtance, except from duke Hamilton and general Middleton, broke in upon the diſordered royaliſts. The ſtreets of the city were ſtrewed with dead. Hamilton, a nobleman of bravery and honour, was mortally wounded; Maſſey wounded and taken priſoner; the king himſelf, having given many proofs of perſonal valour, was obliged to fly. The whole Scottiſh army was either killed or taken priſoners. The country people, inflamed with national antipathy, put to death the few that eſcaped from the field of battle.

THE KING'S ESCAPE.

The king left Worceſter at ſix o'clock in the afternoon, and, without halting, travelled about twenty-ſix miles, in company with fifty or ſixty of his friends. To provide for his ſafety, he thought it beſt to ſeparate himſelf from his companions; and he left them without communicating his intentions to any of them. By the earl of Derby's directions he went to Boſcobel, a lone houſe in the borders of Staffordſhire, inhabited by one Penderell, a farmer. To this man Charles intruſted himſelf. The man had dignity of ſentiments much above his condition; and, though death was denounced againſt all who concealed the king, and a

great reward promiſed to any one who ſhould betray him, he profeſſed and maintained unſhaken fidelity. He took the aſſiſtance of his four brothers, equally honourable with himſelf; and, having clothed the king in a garb like their own, they led him into the neighbouring wood, put a bill into his hand, and pretended to employ themſelves in cutting faggots. Some nights he lay upon ſtraw in the houſe, and fed on ſuch homely fare as it afforded. For a better concealment he mounted upon an oak, where he ſheltered himſelf among the leaves and branches for twenty-four hours: he ſaw ſeveral ſoldiers paſs by: all of them were intent in ſearch of the king; and ſome expreſſed, in his hearing, their earneſt wiſhes of ſeizing him. This tree was afterwards denominated the Royal Oak; and for many years was regarded by the neighbourhood with great veneration.

Charles was in the middle of the kingdom; and could neither ſtay in his retreat, nor ſtir a ſtep from it, without the moſt imminent danger. Fear, hopes, and party zeal, intereſted multitudes to diſcover him; and even the ſmalleſt indiſcretion of his friends might prove fatal. Having joined lord Wilmot, who was ſculking in the neighbourhood, they agreed to put themſelves into the hands of colonel Lane, a zealous royaliſt, who lived at Bentley, not many miles diſtant. The king's feet were ſo hurt, by walking about in heavy boots or countrymen's ſhoes which did not fit him, that he was obliged to mount on horſeback; and he travelled in this ſituation to Bentley, attended by the Penderells, who had been ſo faithful to him. Lane formed a ſcheme for his journey to Briſtol, where it was hoped he would find a ſhip in which he might tranſport himſelf. He had a near kinſwoman, Mrs. Norton, who lived within three miles of that city, and was with child, very near the time of her delivery. He obtained a paſs (for, during thoſe times of confuſion, this precaution was requiſite) for his ſiſter Jane Lane and a ſervant

CHARLES II. IN THE FOREST OF BOSCOBEL.

to travel towards Briſtol, under pretence of viſiting and attending her relation. The king rode before the lady, and perſonated the ſervant.

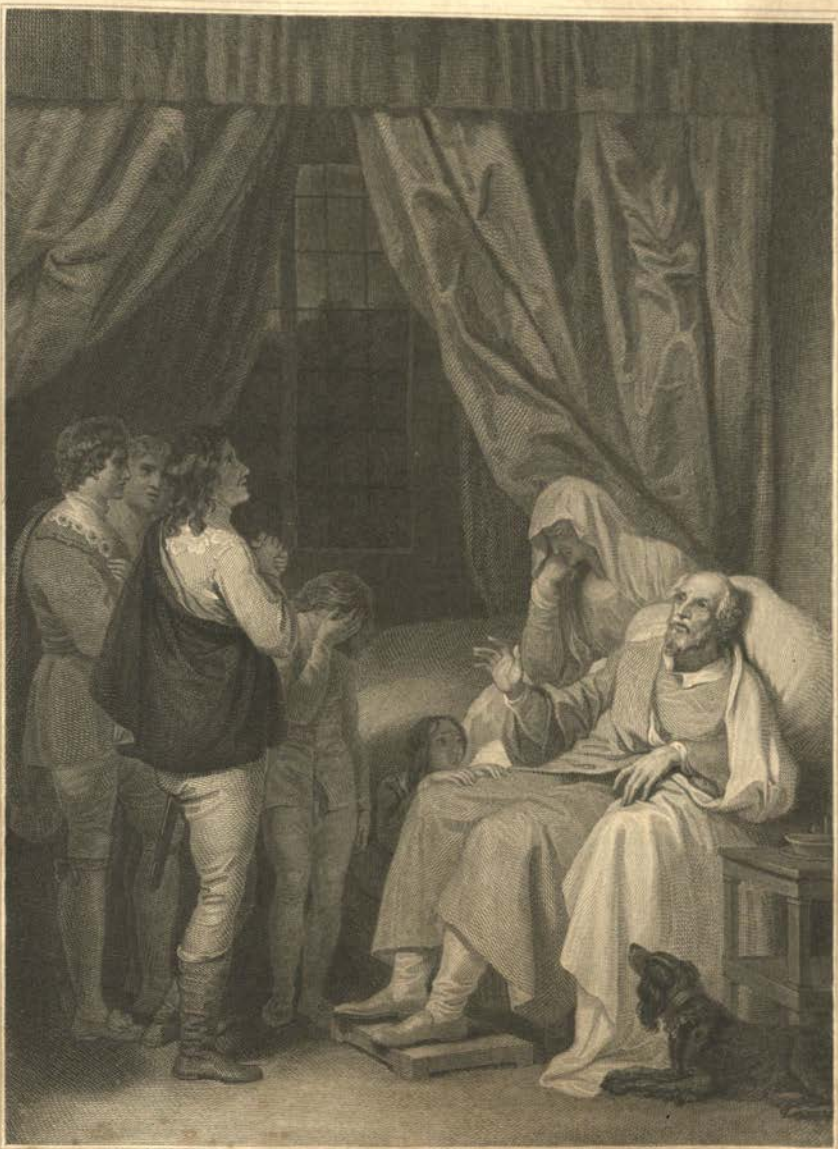
When they arrived at Norton's Mrs. Lane pretended that ſhe had brought along, as her ſervant, a poor lad, a neighbouring farmer's ſon, who was ill of an ague; and ſhe begged a private room for him where he might be quiet. Though Charles kept himſelf retired in this chamber, the butler, one Pope, ſoon knew him: the king was alarmed, but made the butler promiſe that he would keep the ſecret from every mortal, even from his maſter; and he was faithful to his engagement.

No ſhip, it was found, would for a month ſet ſail from Briſtol, either for France or Spain; and the king was obliged to go elſewhere for a paſſage. He intruſted himſelf to colonel Windham of Dorſetſhire, an affectionate partiſan of the royal family. The natural effect of the long civil wars, and of the furious rage to which all men were wrought up in their different factions, was, that every one's inclinations and affections were thoroughly known, and even the courage and fidelity of moſt men, by the variety of incidents, had been put to trial. The royaliſts too had, many of them, been obliged to make concealments in their houſes for themſelves, their friends, or more valuable effects; and the arts of eluding the enemy had been frequently practiſed. All theſe circumſtances proved favourable to the king in the preſent exigency. As he often paſſed through the hands of catholics, the Prieſt's Hole, as they called it, the place where they were obliged to conceal their perſecuted prieſts, was ſometimes employed for ſheltering their diſtreſſed ſovereign.

Windham, before he received the king, aſked leave to intruſt the important ſecret to his mother, his wife, and four ſervants, on whoſe fidelity he could rely. Of all theſe no one proved wanting either in honour or diſcretion. The venerable old ma-

tron, on the reception of her royal gueſt, expreſſed the utmoſt joy that, having loſt without regret three ſons and one grandchild in defence of his father, ſhe was now reſerved, in her declining years, to be inſtrumental in the preſervation of himſelf. Windham told the king that ſir Thomas, his father, in the year 1636, a few days before his death, called to him his five ſons. 'My children,' ſaid he, 'we have hitherto ſeen ſerene and quiet times under our three laſt ſovereigns: but I muſt now warn you to prepare for clouds and ſtorms. Factions ariſe on every ſide, and threaten the tranquillity of your native country. But, whatever happen, do you faithfully honour and obey your prince, and adhere to the crown. I charge you never to forſake the crown, though it ſhould hang upon a buſh.' 'Theſe laſt words,' added Windham, 'made ſuch impreſſions on all our breaſts, that the many afflictions of theſe ſad times could never efface their indelible characters.' From innumerable inſtances it appears how deep-rooted in the minds of the Engliſh gentry of that age was the principle of loyalty to their ſovereign; that noble and generous principle, inferior only in excellence to the more enlarged and more enlightened affection towards a legal conſtitution. But during thoſe times of military uſurpation theſe paſſions were the ſame.

The king continued ſeveral days in Windham's houſe; and all his friends in Britain, and in every part of Europe, remained in the moſt anxious ſuſpenſe with regard to his fortunes. No one could conjecture whether he were dead or alive; and the report of his death, being generally believed, happily relaxed the vigilant ſearch of his enemies. Trials were made to procure a veſſel for his eſcape; but he ſtill met with diſappointments. Having left Windham's houſe, he was obliged again to return to it. He paſſed through many other adventures; aſſumed different diſguiſes; in every ſtep was expoſed to imminent perils; and



SIR T. WINDHAM ADMONISHING HIS SONS TO PRESERVE THEIR LOYALTY TO THE KING.

received daily proofs of uncorrupted fidelity and attachment. The ſagacity of a ſmith, who remarked that his horſe's ſhoes had been made in the north, not in the weſt, as he pretended, once detected him; and he narrowly eſcaped. At Shoreham in Suſſex a veſſel was at laſt found, in which he embarked. He had been known to ſo many, that, if he had not ſet ſail in that critical moment, it had been impoſſible for him to eſcape. After one-and-forty days concealment he arrived ſafely at Feſcamp in Normandy. No leſs than forty men and women had at different times been privy to his concealment and eſcape.[b]

The battle of Worceſter [c] afforded Cromwell what he called his 'crowning mercy.' So elated was he, that he intended to have knighted in the field two of his generals, Lambert and Fleetwood; but was diſſuaded by his friends from exerting this act of regal authority. His power and ambition were too great to brook ſubmiſſion to the empty name of a republic, which ſtood chiefly by his influence, and was ſupported by his victories. How early he entertained thoughts of taking into his hand the reins of government is uncertain. We are only aſſured that he now diſcovered to his intimate friends theſe aſpiring views; and even expreſſed a deſire of aſſuming the rank of king, which he had contributed, with ſuch ſeeming zeal, to aboliſh.[d]

THE COMMONWEALTH.

The little popularity and credit acquired by the republicans farther ſtimulated the ambition of this enterpriſing politician. Theſe men had not that large thought, nor thoſe comprehenſive views, which might qualify them for acting the part of legiſlators; ſelfiſh aims and bigotry chiefly engroſſed their attention. They carried their rigid auſterity ſo far as to enact a law, declaring fornication, after the firſt act, to be felony, without be-

nefit of clergy.[c] They made ſmall progreſs in that important work, which they profeſſed to have ſo much at heart, the ſettling of a new model of repreſentation, and fixing a plan of government. The nation began to apprehend that they intended to eſtabliſh themſelves as a perpetual legiſlature, and to confine the whole power to ſixty or ſeventy perſons, who called themſelves the parliament of the Commonwealth of England. And while they pretended to beſtow new liberties upon the nation, they found themſelves obliged to infringe even the moſt valuable of thoſe which, through time immemorial, had been tranſmitted from their anceſtors. Not daring to intruſt the trials of treaſon to juries, who, being choſen indifferently from among the people, would have been little favourable to the commonwealth, and would have formed their verdict upon the ancient laws, they eluded that noble inſtitution, by which the government of this iſland has ever been ſo much diſtinguiſhed. They had evidently ſeen, in the trial of Lilburn, what they could expect from juries. This man, the moſt turbulent, but the moſt upright and courageous, of human kind, was tried for a tranſgreſſion of the new ſtatute of treaſons; but, though he was plainly guilty, he was acquitted, to the great joy of the people. Weſtminſter-hall, nay, the whole city, rang with ſhouts and acclamations. Never did any eſtabliſhed power receive ſo ſtrong a declaration of its uſurpation and invalidity; and from no inſtitution, beſides the admirable one of juries, could be expected this magnanimous effort.

That they might not for the future be expoſed to affronts, which ſo much leſſened their authority, the parliament erected a high court of juſtice, which was to receive indictments from the council of ſtate. This court was compoſed of men devoted to the ruling party, without name or character, determined to ſacrifice every thing to their own ſafety or ambition. Colonel

Euſebius Andrews and colonel Walter Slingſby were tried by this court for conſpiracies, and condemned to death. They were royaliſts, and refuſed to plead before ſo illegal a juriſdiction. Love, Gibbons, and other preſbyterians, having entered into a plot againſt the republic, were alſo tried, condemned, and executed. The earl of Derby, ſir Timothy Featherſtone, Bemboe, being taken priſoners after the battle of Worceſter, were put to death by ſentence of a court-martial; a method of proceeding declared illegal by that very petition of right for which a former parliament had ſo ſtrenuouſly contended, and which, after great efforts, they had extorted from the king.

Excepting their principles of toleration, the maxims by which the republicans regulated eccleſiaſtical affairs no more prognoſticated any durable ſettlement than thoſe by which they conducted their civil concerns. The preſbyterian model of congregation, claſſes, and aſſemblies, was not allowed to be finiſhed. It ſeemed even the intention of many leaders in the parliament to admit of no eſtabliſhed church; and to leave every one, without any guidance of the magiſtrate, to embrace whatever ſect, and to ſupport whatever clergy, were moſt agreeable to him.

The parliament went ſo far as to make ſome approaches in one province to their independent model. Almoſt all the clergy of Wales being ejected as malignants, itinerant preachers with ſmall ſalaries were ſettled, not above four or five in each county; and theſe, being furniſhed with horſes at the public expenſe, hurried from place to place, and carried, as they expreſſed themſelves, the glad tidings of the goſpel.[f] They were all of them men of the loweſt birth and education, who had deſerted mechanical trades in order to follow this new profeſſion; and in this particular, as well as in their wandering life, they pretended to be more truly apoſtolical.

The republicans, both by the turn of their diſpoſition, and by the nature of the inſtruments which they employed, were better qualified for acts of force and vigour than for the ſlow and deliberate work of legiſlation. Notwithſtanding the late wars and bloodſhed, and the preſent factions, the power of England had never, in any period, appeared ſo formidable to the neighbouring kingdoms as it did at this time in the hands of the commonwealth. A numerous army ſerved equally to retain every one in implicit ſubjection to eſtabliſhed authority, and to ſtrike a terror into foreign nations. The power of peace and war was lodged in the ſame hands with that of impoſing taxes; and no difference of views, among the ſeveral members of the legiſlature, could any longer be apprehended. The preſent impoſitions, though much ſuperior to what had ever formerly been experienced, were in reality moderate, and what a nation ſo opulent could eaſily bear. The military genius of the people had, by the civil conteſts, been rouſed from its former lethargy; and excellent officers were formed in every branch of ſervice. The confuſion, into which all things had been thrown, had given opportunity to men of low ſtations to break through their obſcurity, and to raiſe themſelves by their courage to commands which they were well qualified to exerciſe, but to which their birth could never have entitled them. And, while ſo great a power was lodged in ſuch active hands, no wonder the republic was ſucceſsful in all its enterpriſes.

Blake, a man of great courage and a generous diſpoſition, the ſame perſon who had defended Lyme and Taunton with ſuch unſhaken obſtinacy againſt the late king, was made an admiral; and, though he had hitherto been accuſtomed only to land ſervice, into which too he had not entered till paſt fifty years of age, he ſoon raiſed the naval glory of the nation to a greater height than it had ever attained in any former period. A fleet

was put under his command, and he received orders to purſue prince Rupert, to whom the king had intruſted that ſquadron which had deſerted to him. Rupert took ſhelter in Kinſale; and, eſcaping thence, fled towards the coaſt of Portugal. Blake purſued and chaſed him into the Tagus, where he intended to make an attack upon him. But the king of Portugal, moved by the favour which throughout all Europe attended the royal cauſe, refuſed Blake admittance, and aided prince Rupert in making his eſcape. To be revenged of this partiality the Engliſh admiral made prize of twenty Portugueſe ſhips richly laden; and he threatened ſtill farther vengeance. The king of Portugal, dreading ſo dangerous a foe to his newly acquired dominion, and ſenſible of the unequal conteſt in which he was engaged, made all poſſible ſubmiſſions to the haughty republic, and was at laſt admitted to negociate the renewal of his alliance with England. Prince Rupert, having loſt a great part of his ſquadron on the coaſt of Spain, made ſail towards the Weſt Indies. His brother, prince Maurice, was there ſhipwrecked in a hurricane. Every where this ſquadron ſubſiſted by privateering, ſometimes on Engliſh, ſometimes on Spaniſh veſſels. And Rupert at laſt returned to France, where he diſpoſed of the remnants of his fleet, together with his prizes.

All the ſettlements in America, except New England, which had been planted entirely by the puritans, adhered to the royal party, even after the ſettlement of the republic; and ſir George Ayſcue was ſent with a ſquadron to reduce them. Bermudas, Antigua, Virginia, were ſoon ſubdued. Barbadoes, commanded by lord Willoughby of Parham, made ſome reſiſtance, but was at laſt obliged to ſubmit.

With equal eaſe were Jerſey, Guernſey, Scilly, and the iſle of Man, brought under ſubjection to the republic; and the ſea, which had been much infeſted by privateers from theſe iſlands,

was rendered ſafe to the Engliſh commerce. The counteſs of Derby defended the iſle of Man; and with great reluctance yielded to the neceſſity of ſurrendering to the enemy. This lady, a daughter of the illuſtrious houſe of Trimoille in France, had, during the civil war, diſplayed a manly courage by her obſtinate defence of Latham-houſe againſt the parliamentary forces; and ſhe retained the glory of being the laſt perſon in the three kingdoms, and in all their dependent dominions, who ſubmitted to the victorious commonwealth.[g]

Ireland and Scotland were now entirely ſubjected and reduced to tranquillity. Ireton, the new deputy of Ireland, at the head of a numerous army, thirty thouſand ſtrong, proſecuted the work of ſubduing the revolted Iriſh; and he defeated them in many rencounters, which, though of themſelves of no great moment, proved fatal to their declining cauſe. He puniſhed without mercy all the priſoners who had any hand in the maſſacres. Sir Phelim O'Neale, among the reſt, was ſome time after brought to the gibbet, and ſuffered an ignominious death, which he had ſo well merited by his inhuman cruelties. Limeric, a conſiderable town, ſtill remained in the hands of the Iriſh; and Ireton, after a vigorous ſiege, made himſelf maſter of it. He was here infected with the plague, and ſhortly after died; a memorable perſonage, much celebrated for his vigilance, induſtry, capacity, even for the ſtrict execution of juſtice in that unlimited command which he poſſeſſed in Ireland. He was obſerved to be inflexible in all his purpoſes; and it was believed by many that he was animated with a ſincere and paſſionate love of liberty, and never could have been induced by any motive to ſubmit to the ſmalleſt appearance of regal government. Cromwell appeared to be much affected by his death; and the republicans, who repoſed great confidence in him, were inconſolable. To ſhew their regard for his merit and ſervices, they

beſtowed an eſtate of two thouſand pounds a year on his family, and honoured him with a magnificent funeral at the public charge. Though the eſtabliſhed government was but the mere ſhadow of a commonwealth, yet was it beginning by proper arts to encourage that public ſpirit which no other ſpecies of civil polity is ever able fully to inſpire.

The command of the army in Ireland devolved on lieutenant-general Ludlow. The civil government of the iſland was intruſted to commiſſioners. Ludlow continued to puſh the advantages againſt the Iriſh, and every where obtained an eaſy victory. That unhappy people, diſguſted with the king on account of thoſe violent declarations againſt them and their religion which had been extorted by the Scots, applied to the king of Spain, to the duke of Lorraine, and found aſſiſtance no where. Clanricarde, unable to reſiſt the prevailing power, made ſubmiſſions to the parliament, and retired into England, where he ſoon after died. He was a ſteady catholic, but a man much reſpected by all parties.

The ſucceſſes which attended Monk in Scotland were no leſs deciſive. That able general laid ſiege to Stirling caſtle; and, though it was well provided for defence, it was ſoon ſurrendered to him. He there became maſter of all the records of the kingdom, and he ſent them to England. The earl of Leven, the earl of Crawford, lord Ogilvy, and other noblemen, having met near Perth in order to concert meaſures for raiſing a new army, were ſuddenly ſet upon by colonel Alured, and moſt of them taken priſoners. Sir Philip Muſgrave, with ſome Scots, being engaged at Dumfries in a like enterpriſe, met with a like fate. Dundee was a town well fortified, ſupplied with a good garriſon under Lumiſden, and full of all the rich furniture, the plate and money, of the kingdom, which had been ſent thither as to a place of ſafety. Monk appeared before it; and, having made a

breach, gave a general aſſault. He carried the town; and, following the example and inſtructions of Cromwell, put all the inhabitants to the ſword, in order to ſtrike a general terror into the kingdom. Warned by this example, Aberdeen, St. Andrew's, Inverneſs, and other towns and forts, yielded of their own accord to the enemy. Argyle made his ſubmiſſions to the Engliſh commonwealth; and, excepting a few royaliſts, who remained ſome time in the mountains under the earl of Glencairn, lord Balcarras, and general Middleton, that kingdom, which had hitherto, through all ages, by means of its ſituation, poverty, and valour, maintained its independence, was reduced to total ſubjection.

The Engliſh parliament ſent ſir Harry Vane, St. John, and other commiſſioners, to ſettle Scotland. Theſe men, who poſſeſſed little of the true ſpirit of liberty, knew how to maintain the appearance of it; and they required the voluntary conſent of all the counties and towns of this conquered kingdom before they would unite them into the ſame commonwealth with England. The clergy proteſted; becauſe, they ſaid, this incorporating union would draw along with it a ſubordination of the church to the ſtate in the things of Chriſt.[h] Engliſh judges, joined to ſome Scottiſh, were appointed to determine all cauſes; juſtice was ſtrictly adminiſtered; order and peace maintained; and the Scots, freed from the tyranny of the eccleſiaſtics, were not much diſſatisfied with the preſent government.[i] The prudent conduct of Monk, a man who poſſeſſed a capacity for the arts both of peace and war, ſerved much to reconcile the minds of men, and to allay their prejudices.

DUTCH WAR. 1652.

By the total reduction and pacification of the Britiſh dominions the parliament had leiſure to look abroad, and to exert their

vigour in foreign enterprifes. The Dutch were the firft that felt the weight of their arms.

During the life of Frederic Henry, prince of Orange, the Dutch republic had maintained a neutrality in the civil wars of England; and had never interpofed, except by her good offices, between the contending parties. When William, who had married an Engliſh princeſs, ſucceeded to his father's commands and authority,[k] the States, both before and after the execution of the late king, were accuſed of taking ſteps more favourable to the royal cauſe, and of betraying a great prejudice againſt that of the parliament. It was long before the envoy of the Engliſh commonwealth could obtain an audience of the ſtates-general. The murderers of Doriſlaus were not purſued with ſuch rigour as the parliament expected. And much regard had been paid to the king, and many good offices performed to him, both by the public, and by men of all ranks in the United Provinces.

After the death of William, prince of Orange,[l] which was attended with the depreſſion of his party and the triumph of the Dutch republicans, the parliament thought that the time was now favourable for cementing a cloſer confederacy with the States. St. John, chief juſtice, who was ſent over to the Hague, had entertained the idea of forming a kind of coalition between the two republics, which would have rendered their intereſts totally inſeparable; but, fearing that ſo extraordinary a project would not be reliſhed, he contented himſelf with dropping ſome hints of it, and openly went no farther than to propoſe a ſtrict defenſive alliance between England and the United Provinces, ſuch as has now, for near ſeventy years, taken place between theſe friendly powers.[m] But the States, who were unwilling to form a nearer confederacy with a government whoſe meaſures were ſo obnoxious, and whoſe ſituation ſeemed ſo precarious,

offered only to renew the former alliances with England. And the haughty St. John, diſguſted with this diſappointment, as well as incenſed at many affronts, which had been offered him with impunity by the retainers of the Palatine and Orange families, and indeed by the populace in general, returned into England, and endeavoured to foment a quarrel between the republics.

The movements of great ſtates are often directed by as ſlender ſprings as thoſe of individuals. Though war with ſo conſiderable a naval power as the Dutch, who were in peace with all their other neighbours, might ſeem dangerous to the yet unſettled commonwealth, there were ſeveral motives which at this time induced the Engliſh parliament to embrace hoſtile meaſures. Many of the members thought that a foreign war would ſerve as a pretence for continuing the ſame parliament, and delaying the new model of a repreſentative, with which the nation had ſo long been flattered. Others hoped that the war would furniſh a reaſon for maintaining ſome time longer that numerous ſtanding army, which was ſo much complained of." On the other hand, ſome, who dreaded the increaſing power of Cromwell, expected that the great expenſe of naval armaments would prove a motive for diminiſhing the military eſtabliſhment. To divert the attention of the public from domeſtic quarrels towards foreign tranſactions ſeemed, in the preſent diſpoſition of men's minds, to be good policy. The ſuperior power of the Engliſh commonwealth, together with its advantages of ſituation, promiſed ſucceſs; and the parliamentary leaders hoped to gain many rich prizes from the Dutch, to diſtreſs and ſink their flouriſhing commerce, and by victories to throw a luſtre on their own eſtabliſhment, which was ſo new and unpopular. All theſe views, enforced by the violent ſpirit of St. John, who had great influence over Cromwell, determined the parlia-

ment to change the purpoſed alliance into a furious war againſt the United Provinces.

To cover theſe hoſtile intentions, the parliament, under pretence of providing for the intereſts of commerce, embraced ſuch meaſures as they knew would give diſguſt to the States. They framed the famous act of navigation; which prohibited all nations from importing into England, in their bottoms, any commodity which was not the growth and manufacture of their own country. By this law, though the terms in which it was conceived were general, the Dutch were principally affected; becauſe their country produces few commodities, and they ſubſiſt chiefly by being the general carriers and factors of Europe. Letters of repriſal were granted to ſeveral merchants, who complained of injuries which, they pretended, they had received from the States; and above eighty Dutch ſhips fell into their hands, and were made prizes. The cruelties committed on the Engliſh at Amboyna, which were certainly enormous, but which ſeemed to be buried in oblivion by a thirty years' ſilence, were again made the ground of complaint. And the allowing the murderers of Doriſlaus to eſcape, and the conniving at the inſults to which St. John had been expoſed, were repreſented as ſymptoms of an unfriendly, if not a hoſtile, diſpoſition in the States.

The States, alarmed at all theſe ſteps, ſent orders to their ambaſſadors to endeavour the renewal of the treaty of alliance, which had been broken off by the abrupt departure of St. John. Not to be unprepared, they equipped a fleet of a hundred and fifty ſail; and took care, by their miniſters at London, to inform the council of ſtate of that armament. This intelligence, inſtead of ſtriking terror into the Engliſh republic, was conſidered as a menace, and farther confirmed the parliament in their hoſtile reſolutions. The minds of men in both ſtates were every day

more irritated againſt each other; and it was not long before theſe humours broke forth into action.

Tromp, an admiral of great renown, received from the States the command of a fleet of forty-two ſail, in order to protect the Dutch navigation againſt the privateers of the Engliſh. He was forced, by ſtreſs of weather, as he alleged, to take ſhelter in the road of Dover, where he met with Blake, who commanded an Engliſh fleet much inferior in number. Who was the aggreſſor in the action which enſued between theſe two admirals, both of them men of ſuch prompt and fiery diſpoſitions, it is not eaſy to determine; ſince each of them ſent to his own ſtate a relation totally oppoſite in all its circumſtances to that of the other, and yet ſupported by the teſtimony of every captain in his fleet. Blake pretended that, having given a ſignal to the Dutch admiral to ſtrike, Tromp, inſtead of complying, fired a broadſide at him. Tromp aſſerted that he was preparing to ſtrike, and that the Engliſh admiral nevertheleſs began hoſtilities. It is certain that the admiralty of Holland, who are diſtinct from the council of ſtate, had given Tromp no orders to ſtrike, but had left him to his own diſcretion with regard to that vain but much conteſted ceremonial. They ſeemed willing to introduce the claim of an equality with the new commonwealth, and to interpret the former reſpect paid the Engliſh flag as a deference due only to the monarchy. This circumſtance forms a ſtrong preſumption againſt the narrative of the Dutch admiral. The whole Orange party, it muſt be remarked, to which Tromp was ſuſpected to adhere, were deſirous of a war with England.

Blake, though his ſquadron conſiſted only of fifteen veſſels, reinforced, after the battle began, by eight under captain Bourne, maintained the fight with bravery for five hours, and ſunk one ſhip of the enemy, and took another. Night parted the combatants, and the Dutch fleet retired towards the coaſt of Hol-

land. The populace of London were enraged, and would have inſulted the Dutch ambaſſadors, who lived at Chelſea, had not the council of ſtate ſent guards to protect them.

When the States heard of this action, of which the conſequences were eaſily foreſeen, they were in the utmoſt conſternation. They immediately diſpatched Paw, penſionary of Holland, as their ambaſſador extraordinary to London, and ordered him to lay before the parliament the narrative which Tromp had ſent of the late rencounter. They entreated them, by all the bands of their common religion and common liberties, not to precipitate themſelves into hoſtile meaſures; but to appoint commiſſioners, who ſhould examine every circumſtance of the action, and clear up the truth, which lay in obſcurity. And they pretended that they had given no orders to their admiral to offer any violence to the Engliſh; but would ſeverely puniſh him if they found, upon inquiry, that he had been guilty of an action which they ſo much diſapproved. The imperious parliament would hearken to none of theſe reaſons or remonſtrances. Elated by the numerous ſucceſſes which they had obtained over their domeſtic enemies, they thought that every thing muſt yield to their fortunate arms; and they gladly ſeized the opportunity which they ſought of making war upon the States. They demanded that, without any farther delay or inquiry, reparation ſhould be made for all the damages which the Engliſh had ſuſtained; and, when this demand was not complied with, they diſpatched orders for commencing war againſt the United Provinces.

Blake ſailed northwards with a numerous fleet, and fell upon the herring buſſes, which were eſcorted by twelve men of war. All theſe he either took or diſperſed. Tromp followed him with a fleet of above a hundred ſail. When theſe two admirals were within ſight of each other, and preparing for battle, a furious

ſtorm attacked them. Blake took ſhelter in the Engliſh harbours: the Dutch fleet was diſperſed, and received great damage.

Sir George Ayſcue, though he commanded only forty ſhips according to the Engliſh accounts, engaged, near Plymouth, the famous de Ruiter, who had under him fifty ſhips of war, with thirty merchantmen. The Dutch ſhips were indeed of inferior force to the Engliſh. De Ruiter, the only admiral in Europe who has attained a renown equal to that of the greateſt general, defended himſelf ſo well, that Ayſcue gained no advantage over him. Night parted them in the greateſt heat of the action. De Ruiter next day ſailed off with his convoy. The Engliſh fleet had been ſo ſhattered in the fight, that it was not able to purſue.

Near the coaſt of Kent, Blake, ſeconded by Bourne and Pen, met a Dutch ſquadron, nearly equal in numbers, commanded by de Witte and de Ruiter. A battle was fought, much to the diſadvantage of the Dutch: their rear-admiral was boarded and taken; two other veſſels were ſunk, and one blown up. The Dutch next day made ſail towards Holland.

The Engliſh were not ſo ſucceſsful in the Mediterranean. Van Galen, with much ſuperior force, attacked captain Badily, and defeated him. He bought, however, his victory with the loſs of his life.

Sea-fights are ſeldom ſo deciſive as to diſable the vanquiſhed from making head in a little time againſt the victors. Tromp, ſeconded by de Ruiter, met, near the Goodwins, with Blake, whoſe fleet was inferior to the Dutch, but who reſolved not to decline the combat. A furious battle commenced, where the admirals on both ſides, as well as the inferior officers and ſeamen, exerted great bravery. In this action the Dutch had the advantage: Blake himſelf was wounded; the Garland and Bon-

aventure were taken; two ſhips were burned, and one ſunk; and night came opportunely to ſave the Engliſh fleet. After this victory Tromp, in a bravado, fixed a broom to his main-maſt; as if he were reſolved to ſweep the ſea entirely of all Engliſh veſſels.

Great preparations were made in England, in order to wipe off this diſgrace. A gallant fleet of eighty ſail was fitted out. Blake commanded, and Dean under him, together with Monk, who had been ſent for from Scotland. When the Engliſh lay off Portland they deſcried, near break of day, a Dutch fleet of ſeventy-ſix veſſels, ſailing up the channel, along with a convoy of three hundred merchantmen, who had received orders to wait at the iſle of Rhe till the fleet ſhould arrive to eſcort them. Tromp, and under him de Ruiter, commanded the Dutch. This battle was the moſt furious that had yet been fought between theſe warlike and rival nations. Three days was the combat continued with the utmoſt rage and obſtinacy; and Blake, who was victor, gained not more honour than Tromp, who was vanquiſhed. The Dutch admiral made a ſkilful retreat, and ſaved all the merchant ſhips except thirty: he loſt, however, eleven ſhips of war, had two thouſand men ſlain, and near fifteen hundred taken priſoners. The Engliſh, though many of their ſhips were extremely ſhattered, had but one ſunk: their ſlain were not much inferior in number to thoſe of the enemy.

All theſe ſucceſſes of the Engliſh were chiefly owing to the ſuperior ſize of their veſſels; an advantage which all the ſkill and bravery of the Dutch admirals could not compenſate. By means of ſhip money, an impoſition which had been ſo much complained of, and in ſome reſpects with reaſon, the late king had put the navy into a ſituation which it had never attained in any former reign; and he ventured to build ſhips of a ſize which was then unuſual. But the misfortunes which the Dutch met

with in battle were ſmall in compariſon of thoſe which their trade ſuſtained from the Engliſh. Their whole commerce by the channel was cut off; even that to the Baltic was much infeſted by Engliſh privateers. Their fiſheries were totally ſuſpended. A great number of their ſhips, above ſixteen hundred, had fallen into the hands of the enemy. And all this diſtreſs they ſuffered, not for any national intereſts or neceſſity, but from vain points of honour and perſonal reſentments, of which it was difficult to give a ſatisfactory account to the public. They reſolved, therefore, to gratify the pride of the parliament, and to make ſome advances towards peace. They met not, however, with a favourable reception; and it was not without pleaſure that they learned the diſſolution of that haughty aſſembly by the violence of Cromwell; an event from which they expected a more proſperous turn to their affairs.

DISSOLUTION OF THE PARLIAMENT. 1653.

THE zealous republicans in the parliament had not been the chief or firſt promoters of the war; but, when it was once entered upon, they endeavoured to draw from it every poſſible advantage. On all occaſions they ſet up the fleet in oppoſition to the army, and celebrated the glory and ſucceſſes of their naval armaments. They inſiſted on the intolerable expenſe to which the nation was ſubjected, and urged the neceſſity of diminiſhing it by a reduction of the land forces. They had ordered ſome regiments to ſerve on board the fleet, in the quality of marines. And Cromwell, by the whole train of their proceedings, evidently ſaw that they had entertained a jealouſy of his power and ambition, and were reſolved to bring him to a ſubordination under their authority. Without ſcruple or delay he reſolved to prevent them.

On ſuch firm foundations was built the credit of this extraordinary man, that, though a great maſter of fraud and diſſimulation, he judged it ſuperfluous to employ any diſguiſe in conducting this bold enterpriſe. He ſummoned a general council of officers; and immediately found that they were diſpoſed to receive whatever impreſſions he was pleaſed to give them. Moſt of them were his creatures, had owed their advancement to his favour, and relied entirely upon him for their future preferment. The breach being already made between the military and civil powers, when the late king was ſeized at Holdenby, the general officers regarded the parliament as at once their creature and their rival, and thought that they themſelves were entitled to ſhare among them thoſe offices and riches of which its members had ſo long kept poſſeſſion. Harriſon, Rich, Overton, and a few others, who retained ſome principle, were guided by notions ſo extravagant, that they were eaſily deluded into meaſures the moſt violent and moſt criminal. And the whole army had already been guilty of ſuch illegal and atrocious actions, that they could entertain no farther ſcruple with regard to any enterpriſe which might ſerve their ſelfiſh or fanatical purpoſes.

In the council of officers it was preſently voted to frame a remonſtrance to the parliament. After complaining of the arrears due to the army, they there deſired the parliament to reflect how many years they had ſitten, and what profeſſions they had formerly made of their intentions to new-model the repreſentative, and eſtabliſh ſucceſſive parliaments, who might bear the burden of national affairs, from which they themſelves would gladly, after ſo much danger and fatigue, be at laſt relieved. They confeſſed that the parliament had achieved great enterpriſes, and had ſurmounted mighty difficulties; yet was it an injury, they ſaid, to the reſt of the nation to be excluded from bearing any part in the ſervice of their country. It was

now full time for them to give place to others; and they therefore deſired them, after ſettling a council, who might execute the laws during the interval, to ſummon a new parliament, and eſtabliſh that free and equal government which they had ſo long promiſed to the people.

The parliament took this remonſtrance in ill part, and made a ſharp reply to the council of officers. The officers inſiſted on their advice; and, by mutual altercation and oppoſition, the breach became ſtill wider between the army and the commonwealth. Cromwell, finding matters ripe for his purpoſe, called a council of officers, in order to come to a determination with regard to the public ſettlement. As he had here many friends, ſo had he alſo ſome opponents. Harriſon having aſſured the council that the general ſought only to pave the way for the government of Jeſus and his ſaints, major Streater briſkly replied that Jeſus ought then to come quickly; for, if he delayed it till after Chriſtmas, he would come too late; he would find his place occupied. While the officers were in debate colonel Ingoldſby informed Cromwell that the parliament was ſitting, and had come to a reſolution not to diſſolve themſelves, but to fill up the houſe by new elections; and was at that very time engaged in deliberations with regard to this expedient. Cromwell in a rage immediately haſtened to the houſe, and carried a body of three hundred ſoldiers along with him. Some of them he placed at the door, ſome in the lobby, ſome on the ſtairs. He firſt addreſſed himſelf to his friend St. John, and told him that he had come with a purpoſe of doing what grieved him to the very ſoul, and what he had earneſtly with tears beſought the Lord not to impoſe upon him; but there was a neceſſity, in order to the glory of God and good of the nation. He ſat down for ſome time, and heard the debate. He beckoned Harriſon, and told him that he now judged the parliament ripe for a diſſolution.

OLIVER CROMWELL DISSOLVING THE LONG PARLIAMENT.

'Sir,' ſaid Harriſon, 'the work is very great and dangerous: I deſire you ſeriouſly to conſider before you engage in it.' 'You ſay well,' replied the general; and thereupon ſat ſtill about a quarter of an hour. When the queſtion was ready to be put he ſaid again to Harriſon, 'This is the time; I muſt do it.' And, ſuddenly ſtarting up, he loaded the parliament with the vileſt reproaches for their tyranny, ambition, oppreſſion, and robbery of the public. Then, ſtamping with his foot, which was a ſignal for the ſoldiers to enter: 'For ſhame,' ſaid he to the parliament, 'get you gone; give place to honeſter men, to thoſe who will more faithfully diſcharge their truſt. You are no longer a parliament: I tell you, you are no longer a parliament. The Lord has done with you; he has choſen other inſtruments for carrying on his work.' Sir Harry Vane exclaiming againſt this proceeding, he cried with a loud voice, 'O! ſir Harry Vane, ſir Harry Vane! the Lord deliver me from ſir Harry Vane!' Taking hold of Martin by the cloke, 'Thou art a whore-maſter,' ſaid he. To another, 'Thou art an adulterer.' To a third, 'Thou art a drunkard and a glutton:' 'And thou an extortioner,' to a fourth. He commanded a ſoldier to ſeize the mace. 'What ſhall we do with this bauble? Here, take it away. It is you,' ſaid he, addreſſing himſelf to the houſe, 'that have forced me upon this. I have ſought the Lord night and day, that he would rather ſlay me than put me upon this work.' Having commanded the ſoldiers to clear the hall, he himſelf went out the laſt, and, ordering the doors to be locked, departed to his lodgings in Whitehall.

In this furious manner, which ſo well denotes his genuine character, did Cromwell, without the leaſt oppoſition, or even murmur, annihilate that famous aſſembly which had filled all Europe with the renown of its actions, and with aſtoniſhment at its crimes, and whoſe commencement was not more ardently

CHAPTER LXI.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

CROMWELL'S BIRTH AND PRIVATE LIFE....BAREBONE'S PARLIAMENT....CROMWELL MADE PROTECTOR....PEACE WITH HOLLAND ....A NEW PARLIAMENT....INSURRECTION OF THE ROYALISTS.... STATE OF EUROPE....WAR WITH SPAIN....JAMAICA CONQUERED ....SUCCESS AND DEATH OF ADMIRAL BLAKE....DOMESTIC ADMINISTRATION OF CROMWELL....NEW PARLIAMENT....THE CROWN OFFERED TO CROMWELL....HE REJECTS IT....HUMBLE PETITION AND ADVICE....DUNKIRK TAKEN....SICKNESS OF THE PROTECTOR ....HIS DEATH....AND CHARACTER.

CROMWELL'S BIRTH AND PRIVATE LIFE. 1653.

OLIVER CROMWELL, in whoſe hands the diſſolution of the parliament had left the whole power, civil and military, of three kingdoms, was born at Huntingdon, the laſt year of the former century, of a good family; though he himſelf, being the ſon of a ſecond brother, inherited but a ſmall eſtate from his father. In the courſe of his education he had been ſent to the univerſity; but his genius was found little fitted for the calm and elegant occupations of learning, and he made ſmall proficiencies in his ſtudies. He even threw himſelf into a diſſolute and diſorderly courſe of life; and he conſumed in gaming, drinking,

debauchery, and country riots, the more early years of his youth; and diſſipated part of his patrimony. All of a ſudden the ſpirit of reformation ſeized him; he married, affected a grave and compoſed behaviour, entered into all the zeal and rigour of the puritanical party, and offered to reſtore to every one whatever ſums he had formerly gained by gaming. The ſame vehemence of temper, which had tranſported him into the extremes of pleaſure, now diſtinguiſhed his religious habits. His houſe was the reſort of all the zealous clergy of the party; and his hoſpitality, as well as his liberalities to the ſilenced and deprived miniſters, proved as chargeable as his former debaucheries. Though he had acquired a tolerable fortune by a maternal uncle, he found his affairs ſo injured by his expenſes that he was obliged to take a farm at St. Ives, and apply himſelf for ſome years to agriculture as a profeſſion. But this expedient ſerved rather to involve him in farther debts and difficulties. The long prayers which he ſaid to his family in the morning, and again in the afternoon, conſumed his own time and that of his ploughmen; and he reſerved no leiſure for the care of his temporal affairs. His active mind, ſuperior to the low occupations to which he was condemned, preyed upon itſelf; and he indulged his imagination in viſions, illuminations, revelations; the great nouriſhment of that hypochondriacal temper to which he was ever ſubject. Urged by his wants and his piety, he had made a party with Hambden, his near kinſman, who was preſſed only by the latter motive to tranſport himſelf into New England, now become the retreat of the more zealous among the puritanical party; and it was an order of council which obliged them to diſembark and remain in England. The earl of Bedford, who poſſeſſed a large eſtate in the fen country, near the iſle of Ely, having undertaken to drain theſe moraſſes, was obliged to apply to the king; and, by the powers of the prerogative, he got

commiſſioners appointed, who conducted that work, and divided the new-acquired land among the ſeveral proprietors. He met with oppoſition from many, among whom Cromwell diſtinguiſhed himſelf; and this was the firſt public opportunity which he had met with of diſcovering the factious zeal and obſtinacy of his character.

From accident and intrigue he was choſen by the town of Cambridge member of the long parliament. His domeſtic affairs were then in great diſorder; and he ſeemed not to poſſeſs any talents which could qualify him to riſe in that public ſphere into which he was now at laſt entered. His perſon was ungraceful, his dreſs ſlovenly, his voice untunable, his elocution homely, tedious, obſcure, and embarraſſed. The fervour of his ſpirit frequently prompted him to riſe in the houſe; but he was not heard with attention. His name, for above two years, is not to be found oftener than twice in any committee; and thoſe committees, into which he was admitted, were choſen for affairs which would more intereſt the zealots than the men of buſineſs. In compariſon of the eloquent ſpeakers and fine gentlemen of the houſe, he was entirely overlooked; and his friend Hambden alone was acquainted with the depth of his genius, and foretold that, if a civil war ſhould enſue, he would ſoon riſe to eminence and diſtinction.

Cromwell himſelf ſeems to have been conſcious where his ſtrength lay; and, partly from that motive, partly from the uncontrollable fury of his zeal, he always joined that party which puſhed every thing to extremities againſt the king. He was active in promoting the famous remonſtrance, which was the ſignal for all the enſuing commotions; and, when, after a long debate, it was carried by a ſmall majority, he told lord Falkland that, if the queſtion had been loſt, he was reſolved next day to have converted into ready money the remains of his fortune,

and immediately to have left the kingdom. Nor was this reſolution, he ſaid, peculiar to himſelf; many others of his party he knew to be equally determined.

He was no leſs than forty-three years of age, when he firſt embraced the military profeſſion; and by force of genius, without any maſter, he ſoon became an excellent officer, though perhaps he never reached the fame of a conſummate commander. He raiſed a troop of horſe; fixed his quarters in Cambridge; exerted great ſeverity towards that univerſity, which zealouſly adhered to the royal party; and ſhewed himſelf a man who would go all lengths in favour of that cauſe which he had eſpouſed. He would not allow his ſoldiers to perplex their heads with thoſe ſubtilties of fighting by the king's authority againſt his perſon, and of obeying his majeſty's commands ſignified by both houſes of parliament: he plainly told them that, if he met the king in battle, he would fire a piſtol in his face as readily as againſt any other man. His troop of horſe he ſoon augmented to a regiment; and he firſt inſtituted that diſcipline, and inſpired that ſpirit, which rendered the parliamentary armies in the end victorious. 'Your troops,' ſaid he to Hambden, according to his own account,° 'are moſt of them old decayed ſerving men and tapſters, and ſuch kind of fellows; the king's forces are compoſed of gentlemen's younger ſons and perſons of good quality. And do you think that the mean ſpirits of ſuch baſe and low fellows as ours will ever be able to encounter gentlemen, that have honour and courage and reſolution in them? You muſt get men of ſpirit; and take it not ill that I ſay of a ſpirit that is likely to go as far as gentlemen will go, or elſe I am ſure you will ſtill be beaten, as you have hitherto been, in every encounter.' He did as he propoſed; he inliſted the ſons of freeholders and farmers. He carefully invited into his regiment all the zealous fanatics throughout England. When they were collected in a body

their enthuſiaſtic ſpirit ſtill roſe to a higher pitch. Their colonel, from his own natural character, as well as from policy, was ſufficiently inclined to increaſe the flame. He preached, he prayed, he fought, he puniſhed, he rewarded. The wild enthuſiaſm, together with valour and diſcipline, ſtill propagated itſelf; and all men caſt their eyes on ſo pious and ſo ſucceſsful a leader. From low commands he roſe with great rapidity to be really the firſt, though in appearance only the ſecond, in the army. By fraud and violence he ſoon rendered himſelf the firſt in the ſtate. In proportion to the increaſe of his authority his talents always ſeemed to expand themſelves; and he diſplayed every day new abilities, which had lain dormant till the very emergence by which they were called forth into action. All Europe ſtood aſtoniſhed to ſee a nation, ſo turbulent and unruly, who, for ſome doubtful encroachments on their privileges, had dethroned and murdered an excellent prince, deſcended from a long line of monarchs, now at laſt ſubdued and reduced to ſlavery by one who, a few years before, was no better than a private gentleman, whoſe name was not known in the nation, and who was little regarded even in that low ſphere to which he had always been confined.

The indignation entertained by the people, againſt an authority founded on ſuch manifeſt uſurpation, was not ſo violent as might naturally be expected. Congratulatory addreſſes, the firſt of the kind, were made to Cromwell by the fleet, by the army, even by many of the chief corporations and counties of England; but eſpecially by the ſeveral congregations of ſaints, diſperſed throughout the kingdom.[P] The royaliſts, though they could not love the man who had imbrued his hands in the blood of their ſovereign, expected more lenity from him than from the jealous and imperious republicans, who had hitherto governed. The preſbyterians were pleaſed to ſee thoſe men, by whom they

had been outwitted and expelled, now in their turn expelled and outwitted by their own ſervant; and they applauded him for this laſt act of violence upon the parliament. Theſe two parties compoſed the bulk of the nation, and kept the people in ſome tolerable temper. All men likewiſe, haraſſed with wars and factions, were glad to ſee any proſpect of ſettlement. And they deemed it leſs ignominious to ſubmit to a perſon of ſuch admirable talents and capacity than to a few ignoble enthuſiaſtic hypocrites, who, under the name of a republic, had reduced them to a cruel ſubjection.

The republicans, being dethroned by Cromwell, were the party whoſe reſentment he had the greateſt reaſon to apprehend. That party, beſides the independents, contained two ſets of men, who are ſeemingly of the moſt oppoſite principles, but who were then united by a ſimilitude of genius and of character. The firſt and moſt numerous were the millenarians, or fifth-monarchy-men, who inſiſted that, dominion being founded in grace, all diſtinction in magiſtracy muſt be aboliſhed, except what aroſe from piety and holineſs; who expected ſuddenly the ſecond coming of Chriſt upon earth; and who pretended that the ſaints in the mean while (that is, themſelves) were alone entitled to govern. The ſecond were the deiſts, who had no other object than political liberty, who denied entirely the truth of revelation, and inſinuated that all the various ſects, ſo heated againſt each other, were alike founded in folly and in error. Men of ſuch daring geniuſes were not contented with the ancient and legal forms of civil government; but challenged a degree of freedom beyond what they expected ever to enjoy under any monarchy. Martin, Challoner, Harrington, Sidney, Wildman, Nevil, were eſteemed the heads of this ſmall diviſion.

BAREBONE'S PARLIAMENT.

THE deiſts were perfectly hated by Cromwell, becauſe he had no hold of enthuſiaſm, by which he could govern or overreach them; he therefore treated them with great rigour and diſdain, and uſually denominated them the 'heathens.' As the millenarians had a great intereſt in the army, it was much more important for him to gain their confidence; and their ſize of underſtanding afforded him great facility in deceiving them. Of late years it had been ſo uſual a topic of converſation to diſcourſe of parliaments and councils and ſenates, and the ſoldiers themſelves had been ſo much accuſtomed to enter into that ſpirit, that Cromwell thought it requiſite to eſtabliſh ſomething which might bear the face of a commonwealth. He ſuppoſed that God, in his providence, had thrown the whole right, as well as power, of government into his hands; and, without any more ceremony, by the advice of his council of officers, he ſent ſummonſes to a hundred and twenty-eight perſons of different towns and counties of England, to five of Scotland, to ſix of Ireland. He pretended, by his ſole act and deed, to devolve upon theſe the whole authority of the ſtate. This legiſlative power they were to exerciſe during fifteen months, and they were afterwards to chooſe the ſame number of perſons, who might ſucceed them in that high and important office.

There were great numbers at that time who made it a principle always to adhere to any power which was uppermoſt, and to ſupport the eſtabliſhed government. This maxim is not peculiar to the people of that age; but what may be eſteemed peculiar to them is, that there prevailed a hypocritical phraſe for expreſſing ſo prudential a conduct: it was called a waiting upon providence. When providence, therefore, was ſo kind as

to beſtow on theſe men, now aſſembled together, the ſupreme authority, they muſt have been very ungrateful if, in their turn, they had been wanting in complaiſance towards her. They immediately voted themſelves a parliament; and, having their own conſent, as well as that of Oliver Cromwell, for their legiſlative authority, they now proceeded very gravely to the exerciſe of it.

In this notable aſſembly were ſome perſons of the rank of gentlemen; but the far greater part were low mechanics; fifth-monarchy-men, anabaptiſts, antinomians, independents; the very dregs of the fanatics. They began with ſeeking God by prayer: this office was performed by eight or ten gifted men of the aſſembly; and with ſo much ſucceſs that, according to the confeſſion of all, they had never before, in any of their devotional exerciſes, enjoyed ſo much of the Holy Spirit as was then communicated to them.[q] Their hearts were, no doubt, dilated when they conſidered the high dignity to which they ſuppoſed themſelves exalted. They had been told by Cromwell, in his firſt diſcourſe, that he never looked to ſee ſuch a day, when Chriſt ſhould be ſo owned.[r] They thought it, therefore, their duty to proceed to a thorough reformation, and to pave the way for the reign of the Redeemer, and for that great work which, it was expected, the Lord was to bring forth among them. All fanatics, being conſecrated by their own fond imaginations, naturally bear an antipathy to the eccleſiaſtics, who claim a peculiar ſanctity, derived merely from their office and prieſtly character. This parliament took into conſideration the abolition of the clerical function, as ſavouring of popery; and the taking away of tithes, which they called a relict of Judaiſm. Learning alſo and the univerſities were deemed heatheniſh and unneceſſary. The common law was denominated a badge of the conqueſt and of Norman ſlavery; and they threatened the lawyers with a total abrogation of their profeſſion. Some ſteps were even taken to-

wards an abolition of the chancery,[s] the higheſt court of judicature in the kingdom; and the Moſaical law was intended to be eſtabliſhed as the ſole ſyſtem of Engliſh juriſprudence.[t]

Of all the extraordinary ſchemes adopted by theſe legiſlators, they had not leiſure to finiſh any, except that which eſtabliſhed the legal ſolemnization of marriage by the civil magiſtrate alone, without the interpoſition of the clergy. They found themſelves expoſed to the deriſion of the public. Among the fanatics of the houſe there was an active member, much noted for his long prayers, ſermons, and harangues: he was a leather-ſeller in London; his name Praiſe-god Barebone. This ridiculous name, which ſeems to have been choſen by ſome poet or allegoriſt to ſuit ſo ridiculous a perſonage, ſtruck the fancy of the people; and they commonly affixed to this aſſembly the appellation of Barebone's parliament.[u]

The Dutch ambaſſadors endeavoured to enter into negociation with this parliament; but, though proteſtants and even preſbyterians, they met with a bad reception from thoſe who pretended to a ſanctity ſo much ſuperior. The Hollanders were regarded as worldly-minded men, intent only on commerce and induſtry; whom it was fitting the ſaints ſhould firſt extirpate, ere they undertook that great work, to which they believed themſelves deſtined by providence, of ſubduing Antichriſt, the man of ſin, and extending to the uttermoſt bounds of the earth the kingdom of the Redeemer.[w] The ambaſſadors, finding themſelves proſcribed, not as enemies of England, but of Chriſt, remained in aſtoniſhment, and knew not which was moſt to be admired, the implacable ſpirit or egregious folly of theſe pretended ſaints.

Cromwell began to be aſhamed of his legiſlature. If he ever had any deſign in ſummoning ſo prepoſterous an aſſembly beyond amuſing the populace and the army, he had intended to

alarm the clergy and lawyers; and he had ſo far ſucceeded as to make them deſire any other government, which might ſecure their profeſſions, now brought in danger by theſe deſperate fanatics. Cromwell himſelf was diſſatisfied that the parliament, though they had derived all their authority from him, began to pretend power from the Lord,[x] and to inſiſt already on their divine commiſſion. He had been careful to ſummon in his writs ſeveral perſons entirely devoted to him. By concert theſe met early; and it was mentioned by ſome among them that the ſitting of this parliament any longer would be of no ſervice to the nation. They haſtened therefore to Cromwell, along with Rouſe their ſpeaker; and, by a formal deed or aſſignment, reſtored into his hands that ſupreme authority which they had ſo lately received from him. General Harriſon, and about twenty more, remained in the houſe; and, that they might prevent the reign of the ſaints from coming to an untimely end, they placed one Moyer in the chair, and began to draw up proteſts. They were ſoon interrupted by colonel White, with a party of ſoldiers. He aſked them what they did there? 'We are ſeeking the Lord,' ſaid they. 'Then you may go elſewhere,' replied he; 'for, to my certain knowledge, he has not been here theſe many years.'

CROMWELL MADE PROTECTOR.

THE military being now, in appearance as well as in reality, the ſole power which prevailed in the nation, Cromwell thought fit to indulge a new fancy: for he ſeems not to have had any deliberate plan in all theſe alterations. Lambert, his creature, who, under the appearance of obſequiouſneſs to him, indulged an unbounded ambition, propoſed, in a council of officers, to adopt another ſcheme of government, and to temper the liberty of a commonwealth by the authority of a ſingle perſon, who

ſhould be known by the appellation of Protector. Without delay he prepared what was called 'the inſtrument of government,' containing the plan of this new legiſlature; and, as it was ſuppoſed to be agreeable to the general, it was immediately voted by the council of officers. Cromwell was declared protector; and with great ſolemnity inſtalled in that high office.

So little were theſe men endowed with the ſpirit of legiſlation, that they confeſſed, or rather boaſted, that they had employed only four days in drawing this inſtrument, by which the whole government of three kingdoms was pretended to be regulated and adjuſted to all ſucceeding generations. There appears no difficulty in believing them, when it is conſidered how crude and undigeſted a ſyſtem of civil polity they endeavoured to eſtabliſh. The chief articles of the inſtrument are theſe: a council was appointed, which was not to exceed twenty-one, nor be leſs than thirteen perſons: theſe were to enjoy their office during life, or good behaviour; and, in caſe of a vacancy, the remaining members named three, of whom the protector choſe one. The protector was appointed ſupreme magiſtrate of the commonwealth: in his name was all juſtice to be adminiſtered; from him were all magiſtracy and honours derived; he had the power of pardoning all crimes, excepting murder and treaſon; to him the benefit of all forfeitures devolved. The right of peace, war, and alliance, reſted in him; but in theſe particulars he was to act by the advice and with the conſent of his council. The power of the ſword was veſted in the protector jointly with the parliament while it was ſitting, or with the council of ſtate in the intervals. He was obliged to ſummon a parliament every three years, and allow them to ſit five months without adjournment, prorogation, or diſſolution. The bills which they paſſed were to be preſented to the protector for his aſſent; but, if within twenty days it were not obtained, they were to become

laws by the authority alone of parliament. A ſtanding army for Great Britain and Ireland was eſtabliſhed, of twenty thouſand foot and ten thouſand horſe; and funds were aſſigned for their ſupport. Theſe were not to be diminiſhed without conſent of the protector; and in this article alone he aſſumed a negative. During the intervals of parliament the protector and council had the power of enacting laws, which were to be valid till the next meeting of parliament. The chancellor, treaſurer, admiral, chief governors of Ireland and Scotland, and the chief juſtices of both the benches, muſt be choſen with the approbation of parliament; and in the intervals with the approbation of the council, to be afterwards ratified by parliament. The protector was to enjoy his office during life; and on his death the place was immediately to be ſupplied by the council. This was the inſtrument of government enacted by the council of officers, and ſolemnly ſworn to by Oliver Cromwell. The council of ſtate, named by the inſtrument, were fifteen; men entirely devoted to the protector, and, by reaſon of the oppoſition among themſelves in party and principles, not likely ever to combine againſt him.

Cromwell ſaid that he accepted the dignity of protector merely that he might exert the duty of a conſtable, and preſerve peace in the nation. Affairs indeed were brought to that paſs, by the furious animoſities of the ſeveral factions, that the extenſive authority, and even arbitrary power, of ſome firſt magiſtrate was become a neceſſary evil, in order to keep the people from relapſing into blood and confuſion. The independents were too ſmall a party ever to eſtabliſh a popular government, or intruſt the nation, where they had ſo little intereſt, with the free choice of its repreſentatives. The preſbyterians had adopted the violent maxims of perſecution; incompatible at all times with the peace of ſociety, much more with the wild zeal of thoſe numerous

H. Cleveley Pinxt.

Jg. Walker sculp.

DEFEAT
OF THE DUTCH FLEET
JULY 13 1666.
BY ADMIRALS
BLAKE & DEANE.

ſects which prevailed among the people. The royaliſts were ſo much enraged by the injuries which they had ſuffered, that the other prevailing parties would never ſubmit to them, who they knew were enabled, merely by the execution of the ancient laws, to take ſevere vengeance upon them. Had Cromwell been guilty of no crime but this temporary uſurpation, the plea of neceſſity and public good, which he alleged, might be allowed, in every view, a reaſonable excuſe for his conduct.

During the variety of ridiculous and diſtracted ſcenes, which the civil government exhibited in England, the military force was exerted with vigour, conduct, and unanimity; and never did the kingdom appear more formidable to all foreign nations. The Engliſh fleet, conſiſting of a hundred ſail, and commanded by Monk and Dean, and under them by Pen and Lauſon, met, near the coaſt of Flanders, with the Dutch fleet, equally numerous, and commanded by Tromp. The two republics were not inflamed by any national antipathy, and their intereſts very little interfered; yet few battles have been diſputed with more fierce and obſtinate courage than were thoſe many naval combats which were fought during this ſhort but violent war. The deſire of remaining ſole lords of the ocean animated theſe ſtates to an honourable emulation againſt each other. After a battle of two days, in the firſt of which Dean was killed, the Dutch, inferior in the ſize of their ſhips, were obliged, with great loſs, to retire into their harbours. Blake, towards the end of the fight, joined his countrymen with eighteen ſail. The Engliſh fleet lay off the coaſt of Holland, and totally interrupted the commerce of that republic.

The ambaſſadors, whom the Dutch had ſent over to England, gave them hopes of peace. But, as they could obtain no ceſſation of hoſtilities, the States, unwilling to ſuffer any longer the loſs and diſhonour of being blockaded by the enemy, made the

utmoſt efforts to recover their injured honour. Never on any occaſion did the power and vigour of that republic appear in a more conſpicuous light. In a few weeks they had repaired and manned their fleet; and they equipped ſome ſhips of a larger ſize than any which they had hitherto ſent to ſea. Tromp iſſued out, determined again to fight the victors, and to die rather than to yield the conteſt. He met with the enemy, commanded by Monk; and both ſides immediately ruſhed into the combat. Tromp, gallantly animating his men, with his ſword drawn, was ſhot through the heart with a muſquet ball. This event alone decided the battle in favour of the Engliſh. Though near thirty ſhips of the Dutch were ſunk and taken, they little regarded this loſs compared with that of their brave admiral.

PEACE WITH HOLLAND. 1654.

MEANWHILE the negociations of peace were continually advancing. The States, overwhelmed with the expenſe of the war, terrified by their loſſes, and mortified by their defeats, were extremely deſirous of an accommodation with an enemy, whom they found by experience too powerful for them. The king having ſhewn an inclination to ſerve on board their fleet; though they expreſſed their ſenſe of the honour intended them, they declined an offer which might inflame the quarrel with the Engliſh commonwealth. The great obſtacle to the peace was found not to be any animoſity on the part of the Engliſh; but, on the contrary, a deſire too earneſt of union and confederacy. Cromwell had revived the chimerical ſcheme of a coalition with the United Provinces; a total conjunction of government, privileges, intereſt, and councils. This project appeared ſo wild to the States, that they wondered any man of ſenſe could ever entertain it; and they refuſed to enter into conferences with

regard to a propoſal which could ſerve only to delay any practicable ſcheme of accommodation. The peace was at laſt ſigned by Cromwell, now inveſted with the dignity of protector; and it proves ſufficiently that the war had been impolitic, ſince, after the moſt ſignal victories, no terms more advantageous could be obtained. A defenſive league was made between the two republics. They agreed each of them to baniſh the enemies of the other; thoſe who had been concerned in the maſſacre of Amboyna were to be puniſhed, if any remained alive; the honour of the flag was yielded to the Engliſh; eighty-five thouſand pounds were ſtipulated to be paid by the Dutch Eaſt India company for loſſes which the Engliſh company had ſuſtained; and the iſland of Polerone in the Eaſt Indies was promiſed to be ceded to the latter.

Cromwell, jealous of the connexions between the royal family and that of Orange, inſiſted on a ſeparate article, that neither the young prince nor any of his family ſhould ever be inveſted with the dignity of ſtadtholder. The province of Holland, ſtrongly prejudiced againſt that office, which they eſteemed dangerous to liberty, ſecretly ratified this article. The protector, knowing that the other provinces would not be induced to make ſuch a conceſſion, was ſatisfied with this ſecurity.

The Dutch war being ſucceſsful, and the peace reaſonable, brought credit to Cromwell's adminiſtration. An act of juſtice, which he exerciſed at home, gave likewiſe ſatisfaction to the people, though the regularity of it may perhaps appear ſomewhat doubtful. Don Pantaleon Sa, brother to the Portugueſe ambaſſador, and joined with him in the ſame commiſſion,[7] fancying himſelf to be inſulted, came upon the exchange armed, and attended by ſeveral ſervants. By miſtake he fell on a gentleman whom he took for the perſon that had given him the offence; and, having butchered him with many wounds, he and

all his attendants took ſhelter in the houſe of the Portugueſe ambaſſador, who had connived at this baſe enterpriſe.[z] The populace ſurrounded the houſe, and threatened to ſet fire to it. Cromwell ſent a guard, who ſeized all the criminals. They were brought to trial; and, notwithſtanding the oppoſition of the ambaſſador, who pleaded the privileges of his office, don Pantaleon was executed on Tower-hill. The laws of nations were here plainly violated: but the crime committed by the Portugueſe gentleman was to the laſt degree atrocious; and the vigorous chaſtiſement of it, ſuiting ſo well the undaunted character of Cromwell, was univerſally approved of at home, and admired among foreign nations. The ſituation of Portugal obliged that court to acquieſce; and the ambaſſador ſoon after ſigned with the protector a treaty of peace and alliance, which was very advantageous to the Engliſh commerce.

Another act of ſeverity, but neceſſary in his ſituation, was at the very ſame time exerciſed by the protector, in the capital puniſhment of Gerard and Vowel, two royaliſts, who were accuſed of conſpiring againſt his life. He had erected a high court of juſtice for their trial; an infringement of the ancient laws, which at this time was become familiar, but one to which no cuſtom or precedent could reconcile the nation. Juries were found altogether unmanageable. The reſtleſs Lilburn, for new offences, had been brought to a new trial; and had been acquitted with new triumph and exultation. If no other method of conviction had been deviſed during this illegal and unpopular government, all its enemies were aſſured of entire impunity.

A NEW PARLIAMENT.

The protector had occaſion to obſerve the prejudices entertained againſt his government, by the diſpoſition of the parlia-

ment which he ſummoned on the third of September, that day of the year on which he gained his two great victories of Dunbar and Worceſter, and which he always regarded as fortunate for him. It muſt be confeſſed that, if we are left to gather Cromwell's intentions from his inſtrument of government, it is ſuch a motley piece, that we cannot eaſily conjecture whether he ſeriouſly meant to eſtabliſh a tyranny or a republic. On one hand, a firſt magiſtrate, in ſo extenſive a government, ſeemed neceſſary both for the dignity and tranquillity of the ſtate; and the authority, which he aſſumed as protector, was, in ſome reſpects, inferior to the prerogatives which the laws intruſted and ſtill intruſt to the king. On the other hand, the legiſlative power, which he reſerved to himſelf and council, together with ſo great an army, independent of the parliament, were bad prognoſtics of his intention to ſubmit to a civil and legal conſtitution. But, if this were not his intention, the method in which he diſtributed and conducted the elections, being ſo favourable to liberty, form an inconſiſtency which is not eaſily accounted for. He deprived of their right of election all the ſmall boroughs, places the moſt expoſed to influence and corruption. Of four hundred members, which repreſented England, two hundred and ſeventy were choſen by the counties. The reſt were elected by London, and the more conſiderable corporations. The lower populace too, ſo eaſily guided or deceived, were excluded from the elections: an eſtate of two hundred pounds value was neceſſary to entitle any one to a vote. The elections of this parliament were conducted with perfect freedom; and, excepting that ſuch of the royaliſts as had born arms againſt the parliament, and all their ſons, were excluded, a more fair repreſentation of the people could not be deſired or expected. Thirty members were returned from Scotland; as many from Ireland.

The protector ſeems to have been diſappointed when he found that all theſe precautions, which were probably nothing but covers to his ambition, had not procured him the confidence of the public. Though Cromwell's adminiſtration was leſs odious to every party than that of any other party, yet was it entirely acceptable to none. The royaliſts had been inſtructed by the king to remain quiet, and to cover themſelves under the appearance of republicans; and they found in this latter faction ſuch inveterate hatred againſt the protector, that they could not wiſh for more zealous adverſaries to his authority. It was maintained by them that the pretence of liberty and a popular election was but a new artifice of this great deceiver, in order to lay aſleep the deluded nation, and give himſelf leiſure to rivet their chains more ſecurely upon them: that in the inſtrument of government he openly declared his intention of ſtill retaining the ſame mercenary army, by whoſe aſſiſtance he had ſubdued the ancient eſtabliſhed government; and who would, with leſs ſcruple, obey him in overturning, whenever he ſhould pleaſe to order them, that new ſyſtem which he himſelf had been pleaſed to model: that, being ſenſible of the danger and uncertainty of all military government, he endeavoured to intermix ſome appearance, and but an appearance, of civil adminiſtration, and to balance the army by a ſeeming conſent of the people: that the abſurd trial which he had made, of a parliament elected by himſelf, appointed perpetually to elect their ſucceſſors, plainly proved that he aimed at nothing but temporary expedients, was totally averſe to a free republican government, and poſſeſſed not that mature and deliberate reflection which could qualify him to act the part of a legiſlator: that his imperious character, which had betrayed itſelf in ſo many incidents, could never ſeriouſly ſubmit to legal limitations; nor would the very image of popular government be longer upheld than while conformable to his

arbitrary will and pleaſure: and that the beſt policy was to oblige him to take off the maſk at once; and either ſubmit entirely to that parliament which he had ſummoned, or, by totally rejecting its authority, leave himſelf no reſource but in his ſeditious and enthuſiaſtic army.

In proſecution of theſe views the parliament, having heard the protector's ſpeech, three hours long,[a] and having choſen Lenthal for their ſpeaker, immediately entered into a diſcuſſion of the pretended inſtrument of government, and of that authority which Cromwell, by the title of protector, had aſſumed over the nation. The greateſt liberty was uſed in arraigning this new dignity; and even the perſonal character and conduct of Cromwell eſcaped not without cenſure. The utmoſt that could be obtained by the officers and by the court party, for ſo they were called, was to protract the debate by arguments and long ſpeeches, and prevent the deciſion of a queſtion which they were ſenſible would be carried againſt them by a great majority. The protector, ſurpriſed and enraged at this refractory ſpirit in the parliament, which however he had ſo much reaſon to expect, ſent for them to the painted chamber, and with an air of great authority inveighed againſt their conduct. He told them that nothing would be more abſurd than for them to diſpute his title, ſince the ſame inſtrument of government which made them a parliament had inveſted him with the protectorſhip; that ſome points in the new conſtitution were ſuppoſed to be fundamentals, and were not on any pretence to be altered or diſputed; that among theſe were the government of the nation by a ſingle perſon and a parliament, their joint authority over the army and militia, the ſucceſſion of new parliaments, and liberty of conſcience; and that, with regard to theſe particulars, there was reſerved to him a negative voice, to which, in the other circumſtances of government, he confeſſed himſelf nowiſe entitled.

The protector now found the neceſſity of exacting a ſecurity, which, had he foreſeen the ſpirit of the houſe, he would with better grace have required at their firſt meeting.[b] He obliged the members to ſign a recognition of his authority, and an engagement not to propoſe or conſent to any alteration in the government, as it was ſettled in a ſingle perſon and a parliament; and he placed guards at the door of the houſe, who allowed none but ſubſcribers to enter. Moſt of the members, after ſome heſitation, ſubmitted to this condition; but retained the ſame refractory ſpirit which they had diſcovered in their firſt debates. The inſtrument of government was taken in pieces, and examined, article by article, with the moſt ſcrupulous accuracy: very free topics were advanced, with the general approbation of the houſe; and, during the whole courſe of their proceedings, they neither ſent up one bill to the protector, nor took any notice of him. Being informed that conſpiracies were entered into between the members and ſome malcontent officers, he haſtened to the diſſolution of ſo dangerous an aſſembly. By the inſtrument of government, to which he had ſworn, no parliament could be diſſolved till it had ſitten five months; but Cromwell pretended that a month contained only twenty-eight days, according to the method of computation practiſed in paying the fleet and army. The full time, therefore, according to this reckoning, being elapſed, the parliament was ordered to attend the protector, who made them a tedious, confuſed, angry harangue, and diſmiſſed them. Were we to judge of Cromwell's capacity by this, and indeed by all his other compoſitions, we ſhould be apt to entertain no very favourable idea of it. But, in the great variety of human geniuſes, there are ſome which, though they ſee their object clearly and diſtinctly in general, yet, when they come to unfold its parts by diſcourſe or writing, loſe that luminous conception which they had before attained.

All accounts agree in aſcribing to Cromwell a tireſome, dark, unintelligible elocution, even when he had no intention to diſguiſe his meaning; yet no man's actions were ever, in ſuch a variety of difficult incidents, more deciſive and judicious.

The electing of a diſcontented parliament is a proof of a diſcontented nation: the angry and abrupt diſſolution of that parliament is always ſure to increaſe the general diſcontent. The members of this aſſembly, returning to their counties, propagated that ſpirit of mutiny which they had exerted in the houſe. Sir Harry Vane and the old republicans, who maintained the indiſſoluble authority of the long parliament, encouraged the murmurs againſt the preſent uſurpation, though they acted ſo cautiouſly as to give the protector no handle againſt them. Wildman, and ſome others of that party, carried ſtill farther their conſpiracies againſt the protector's authority. The royaliſts, obſerving this general ill-will towards the eſtabliſhment, could no longer be retained in ſubjection; but fancied that every one, who was diſſatisfied like them, had alſo embraced the ſame views and inclinations. They did not conſider that the old parliamentary party, though many of them were diſpleaſed with Cromwell, who had diſpoſſeſſed them of their power, were ſtill more apprehenſive of any ſucceſs to the royal cauſe; whence, beſides a certain proſpect of the ſame conſequence, they had ſo much reaſon to dread the ſevereſt vengeance for their paſt tranſgreſſions.

INSURRECTION OF THE ROYALISTS. 1655.

In concert with the king, a conſpiracy was entered into by the royaliſts throughout England, and a day of general riſing appointed. Information of this deſign was conveyed to Cromwell. The protector's adminiſtration was extremely vigilant. Thurloe,

his ſecretary, had ſpies every where. Manning, who had acceſs to the king's family, kept a regular correſpondence with him. And it was not difficult to obtain intelligence of a confederacy, ſo generally diffuſed among a party who valued themſelves more on zeal and courage than on ſecreſy and ſobriety. Many of the royaliſts were thrown into priſon; others, on the approach of the day, were terrified with the danger of the undertaking, and remained at home: in one place alone the conſpiracy broke into action. Penruddoc, Groves, Jones, and other gentlemen of the weſt, entered Saliſbury with about two hundred horſe, at the very time when the ſheriff and judges were holding the aſſizes: theſe they made priſoners; and they proclaimed the king. Contrary to their expectations, they received no acceſſion of force; ſo prevalent was the terror of the eſtabliſhed government. Having in vain wandered about for ſome time, they were totally diſcouraged; and one troop of horſe was able at laſt to ſuppreſs them. The leaders of the conſpiracy, being taken priſoners, were capitally puniſhed; the reſt were ſold for ſlaves, and tranſported to Barbadoes.

The eaſy ſubduing of this inſurrection, which, by the boldneſs of the undertaking, ſtruck at firſt a great terror into the nation, was a ſingular felicity to the protector; who could not, without danger, have brought together any conſiderable body of his mutinous army, in order to ſuppreſs it. The very inſurrection itſelf he regarded as a fortunate event; ſince it proved the reality of thoſe conſpiracies, which his enemies on every occaſion repreſented as mere fictions, invented to colour his tyrannical ſeverities. He reſolved to keep no longer any terms with the royaliſts, who, though they were not perhaps the moſt implacable of his enemies, were thoſe whom he could oppreſs under the moſt plauſible pretences, and who met with leaſt countenance and protection from his adherents. He iſſued an edict,

with the conſent of his council, for exacting the tenth penny from that whole party; in order, as he pretended, to make them pay the expenſes to which their mutinous diſpoſition continually expoſed the public. Without regard to compoſitions, articles of capitulation, or acts of indemnity, all the royaliſts, however haraſſed with former oppreſſions, were obliged anew to redeem themſelves by great ſums of money; and many of them were reduced by theſe multiplied diſaſters to extreme poverty. Whoever was known to be diſaffected, or even lay under any ſuſpicion, though no guilt could be proved againſt him, was expoſed to the new exaction.

In order to raiſe this impoſition, which commonly paſſed by the name of decimation, the protector inſtituted twelve major-generals, and divided the whole kingdom of England into ſo many military juriſdictions.[c] Theſe men, aſſiſted by commiſſioners, had power to ſubject whom they pleaſed to decimation, to levy all the taxes impoſed by the protector and his council, and to impriſon any perſon who ſhould be expoſed to their jealouſy or ſuſpicion; nor was there any appeal from them but to the protector himſelf and his council. Under colour of theſe powers, which were ſufficiently exorbitant, the major-generals exerciſed an authority ſtill more arbitrary, and acted as if abſolute maſters of the property and perſon of every ſubject. All reaſonable men now concluded that the very maſk of liberty was thrown aſide, and that the nation was for ever ſubjected to military and deſpotic government, exerciſed not in the legal manner of European nations, but according to the maxims of eaſtern tyranny. Not only the ſupreme magiſtrate owed his authority to illegal force and uſurpation: he had parcelled out the people into ſo many ſubdiviſions of ſlavery, and had delegated to his inferior miniſters the ſame unlimited authority which he himſelf had ſo violently aſſumed.

STATE OF EUROPE.

A GOVERNMENT totally military and deſpotic is almoſt ſure, after ſome time, to fall into impotence and languor: but, when it immediately ſucceeds a legal conſtitution, it may at firſt, to foreign nations, appear very vigorous and active, and may exert with more unanimity that power, ſpirit, and riches, which had been acquired under a better form. It ſeems now proper, after ſo long an interval, to look abroad to the general ſtate of Europe, and to conſider the meaſures which England at this time embraced in its negociations with the neighbouring princes. The moderate temper and unwarlike genius of the two laſt princes, the extreme difficulties under which they laboured at home, and the great ſecurity which they enjoyed from foreign enemies, had rendered them negligent of the tranſactions on the continent; and England, during their reigns, had been in a manner overlooked in the general ſyſtem of Europe. The bold and reſtleſs genius of the protector led him to extend his alliances and enterpriſes to every part of Chriſtendom; and, partly from the aſcendant of his magnanimous ſpirit, partly from the ſituation of foreign kingdoms, the weight of England, even under its moſt legal and braveſt princes, was never more ſenſibly felt than during this unjuſt and violent uſurpation.

A war of thirty years, the moſt ſignal and moſt deſtructive that had appeared in modern annals, was at laſt finiſhed in Germany;[d] and by the treaty of Weſtphalia were compoſed thoſe fatal quarrels which had been excited by the palatine's precipitate acceptance of the crown of Bohemia. The young palatine was reſtored to part of his dignities and of his dominions.[e] The rights, privileges, and authority, of the ſeveral members of the Germanic body were fixed and aſcertained: ſovereign princes

and free ſtates were in ſome degree reduced to obedience under laws: and, by the valour of the heroic Guſtavus, the enterpriſes of the active Richelieu, the intrigues of the artful Mazarine, was in part effected, after an infinite expenſe of blood and treaſure, what had been fondly expected and loudly demanded from the feeble efforts of the pacific James, ſeconded by the ſcanty ſupplies of his jealous parliaments.

Sweden, which had acquired by conqueſt large dominions in the north of Germany, was engaged in enterpriſes which promiſed her, from her ſucceſs and valour, ſtill more extenſive acquiſitions on the ſide both of Poland and of Denmark. Charles X, who had mounted the throne of that kingdom after the voluntary reſignation of Chriſtina, being ſtimulated by the fame of Guſtavus, as well as by his own martial diſpoſition, carried his conquering arms to the ſouth of the Baltic, and gained the celebrated battle of Warſaw, which had been obſtinately diſputed during the ſpace of three days. The protector, at the time his alliance was courted by every power in Europe, anxiouſly courted the alliance of Sweden; and he was fond of forming a confederacy with a proteſtant power of ſuch renown, even though it threatened the whole north with conqueſt and ſubjection.

The tranſactions of the parliament and protector with France had been various and complicated. The emiſſaries of Richelieu had furniſhed fuel to the flame of rebellion when it firſt broke out in Scotland; but, after the conflagration had diffuſed itſelf, the French court, obſerving the materials to be of themſelves ſufficiently combuſtible, found it unneceſſary any longer to animate the Britiſh malcontents to an oppoſition of their ſovereign. On the contrary, they offered their mediation for compoſing theſe inteſtine diſorders; and their ambaſſadors, from decency, pretended to act in concert with the court of England, and to receive directions from a prince with whom their maſter was

connected with ſo near an affinity. Meanwhile Richelieu died, and ſoon after him the French king, Louis XIII, leaving his ſon an infant four years old, and his widow, Anne of Auſtria, regent of the kingdom. Cardinal Mazarine ſucceeded Richelieu in the miniſtry; and the ſame general plan of policy, though by men of ſuch oppoſite characters, was ſtill continued in the French counſels. The eſtabliſhment of royal authority, the reduction of the Auſtrian family, were purſued with ardour and ſucceſs; and every year brought an acceſſion of force and grandeur to the French monarchy. Not only battles were won, towns and fortreſſes taken; the genius too of the nation ſeemed gradually to improve, and to compoſe itſelf to the ſpirit of dutiful obedience and of ſteady enterpriſe. A Conde, a Turenne, were formed; and the troops, animated by their valour, and guided by their diſcipline, acquired every day a greater aſcendant over the Spaniards. All of a ſudden, from ſome intrigues of the court, and ſome diſcontents in the courts of judicature, inteſtine commotions were excited, and every thing relapſed into confuſion. But theſe rebellions of the French, neither ennobled by the ſpirit of liberty, nor diſgraced by the fanatical extravagances which diſtinguiſhed the Britiſh civil wars, were conducted with little bloodſhed, and made but a ſmall impreſſion on the minds of the people. Though ſeconded by the force of Spain, and conducted by the prince of Conde, the malcontents in a little time were either expelled or ſubdued; and the French monarchy, having loſt a few of its conqueſts, returned with freſh vigour to the acquiſition of new dominion.

The queen of England, and her ſon Charles, during theſe commotions, paſſed moſt of their time at Paris; and, notwithſtanding their near connexion of blood, received but few civilities, and ſtill leſs ſupport, from the French court. Had the queen-regent been ever ſo much inclined to aſſiſt the Engliſh

prince, the diſorders of her own affairs would for a long time have rendered ſuch intentions impracticable. The baniſhed queen had a moderate penſion aſſigned her; but it was ſo ill paid, and her credit ran ſo low, that, one morning when the cardinal de Retz waited on her, ſhe informed him that her daughter, the princeſs Henrietta, was obliged to lie a-bed for want of a fire to warm her. To ſuch a condition was reduced, in the midſt of Paris, a queen of England, and daughter of Henry IV of France!

The Engliſh parliament, however, having aſſumed the ſovereignty of the ſtate, reſented the countenance, cold as it was, which the French court gave to the unfortunate monarch. On pretence of injuries, of which the Engliſh merchants complained, they iſſued letters of repriſal upon the French; and Blake went ſo far as to attack and ſeize a whole ſquadron of ſhips, which were carrying ſupplies to Dunkirk, then cloſely beſieged by the Spaniards. That town, diſappointed of theſe ſupplies, fell into the hands of the enemy. The French miniſters ſoon found it neceſſary to change their meaſures. They treated Charles with ſuch affected indifference, that he thought it more decent to withdraw, and prevent the indignity of being deſired to leave the kingdom. He went firſt to Spaw, thence he retired to Cologne; where he lived two years on a ſmall penſion, about ſix thouſand pounds a year, paid him by the court of France, and on ſome contributions ſent him by his friends in England. In the management of his family he diſcovered a diſpoſition to order and economy; and his temper, cheerful, careleſs, and ſociable, was more than a ſufficient compenſation for that empire of which his enemies had bereaved him. Sir Edward Hyde, created lord chancellor, and the marquis of Ormond, were his chief friends and confidants.

If the French miniſtry had thought it prudent to bend under the Engliſh parliament, they deemed it ſtill more neceſſary to

pay deference to the protector, when he aſſumed the reins of government. Cardinal Mazarine, by whom all the counſels of France were directed, was artful and vigilant, ſupple and patient, falſe and intriguing; deſirous rather to prevail by dexterity than violence, and placing his honour more in the final ſucceſs of his meaſures than in the ſplendour and magnanimity of the means which he employed. Cromwell, by his imperious character, rather than by the advantage of his ſituation, acquired an aſcendant over this man; and every propoſal made by the protector, however unreaſonable in itſelf, and urged with whatever inſolence, met with a ready compliance from the politic and timid cardinal. Bourdeaux was ſent over to England as miniſter; and all circumſtances of reſpect were paid to the daring uſurper, who had imbrued his hands in the blood of his ſovereign, a prince ſo nearly related to the royal family of France. With indefatigable patience did Bourdeaux conduct this negociation, which Cromwell ſeemed entirely to neglect; and, though privateers with Engliſh commiſſions committed daily depredations on the French commerce, Mazarine was content, in hopes of a fortunate iſſue, ſtill to ſubmit to theſe indignities.[f]

The court of Spain, leſs connected with the unfortunate royal family, and reduced to greater diſtreſs than the French monarchy, had been ſtill more forward in her advances to the proſperous parliament and protector. Don Alonzo de Cardenas, the Spaniſh envoy, was the firſt public miniſter who recognized the authority of the new republic; and, in return for this civility, Aſcham was ſent envoy into Spain by the parliament. No ſooner had this miniſter arrived in Madrid, than ſome of the baniſhed royaliſts, inflamed by that inveterate hatred which animated the Engliſh factions, broke into his chamber, and murdered him, together with his ſecretary. Immediately they took ſanctuary in the churches; and, aſſiſted by the general favour, which every

where attended the royal cauſe, were enabled, moſt of them, to make their eſcape. Only one of the criminals ſuffered death; and the parliament ſeemed to reſt ſatisfied with this atonement.

Spain at this time, aſſailed every where by vigorous enemies from without, and labouring under many internal diſorders, retained nothing of her former grandeur, except the haughty pride of her counſels, and the hatred and jealouſy of her neighbours. Portugal had rebelled, and eſtabliſhed her monarchy in the houſe of Braganza: Catalonia, complaining of violated privileges, had revolted to France: Naples was ſhaken with popular convulſions: the Low Countries were invaded with ſuperior forces, and ſeemed ready to change their maſter: the Spaniſh infantry, anciently ſo formidable, had been annihilated by Conde in the fields of Rocroy: and, though the ſame prince, baniſhed France, ſuſtained by his activity and valour the falling fortunes of Spain, he could only hope to protract, not prevent, the ruin with which that monarchy was viſibly threatened.

Had Cromwell underſtood and regarded the intereſts of his country, he would have ſupported the declining condition of Spain againſt the dangerous ambition of France, and preſerved that balance of power on which the greatneſs and ſecurity of England ſo much depend. Had he ſtudied only his own intereſts, he would have maintained an exact neutrality between thoſe great monarchies; nor would he have hazarded his ill-acquired and unſettled power by provoking foreign enemies, who might lend aſſiſtance to domeſtic faction, and overturn his tottering throne. But his magnanimity undervalued danger; his active diſpoſition, and avidity of extenſive glory, made him incapable of repoſe; and, as the policy of men is continually warped by their temper, no ſooner was peace made with Holland than he began to deliberate what new enemy he ſhould invade with his victorious arms.

WAR WITH SPAIN.

THE extenſive empire, and yet extreme weakneſs, of Spain in the Weſt Indies; the vigorous courage and great naval power of England; were circumſtances which, when compared, excited the ambition of the enterpriſing protector, and made him hope that he might, by ſome gainful conqueſt, render for ever illuſtrious that dominion which he had aſſumed over his country. Should he fail of theſe durable acquiſitions, the Indian treaſures, which muſt every year croſs the ocean to reach Spain, were, he thought, a ſure prey to the Engliſh navy, and would ſupport his military force without his laying new burdens on the diſcontented people. From France a vigorous reſiſtance muſt be expected: no plunder, no conqueſts could be hoped for: the progreſs of his arms, even if attended with ſucceſs, muſt there be ſlow and gradual: and the advantages acquired, however real, would be leſs ſtriking to the multitude, whom it was his intereſt to allure. The royal family, ſo cloſely connected with the French monarch, might receive great aſſiſtance from that neighbouring kingdom; and an army of French proteſtants, landed in England, would be able, he dreaded, to unite the moſt oppoſite factions againſt the preſent uſurpation.[g]

Theſe motives of policy were probably ſeconded by his bigoted prejudices, as no human mind ever contained ſo ſtrange a mixture of ſagacity and abſurdity as that of this extraordinary perſonage. The Swediſh alliance, though much contrary to the intereſts of England, he had contracted merely from his zeal for proteſtantiſm;[h] and, Sweden being cloſely connected with France, he could not hope to maintain that confederacy, in which he ſo much prided himſelf, ſhould a rupture enſue between England and this latter kingdom.[i] The hugonots, he expected, would

meet with better treatment while he engaged in a cloſe union with their ſovereign.[k] And, as the Spaniards were much more papiſts than the French, were much more expoſed to the old puritanical hatred,[l] and had even erected the bloody tribunal of the inquiſition, whoſe rigours they had refuſed to mitigate on Cromwell's ſolicitation,[m] he hoped that a holy and meritorious war with ſuch idolaters could not fail of protection from heaven.[n] A preacher likewiſe, inſpired, as was ſuppoſed, by a prophetic ſpirit, bid him 'go and proſper;' calling him 'a ſtone cut out of the mountains without hands, that would break the pride of the Spaniard, cruſh antichriſt, and make way for the purity of the goſpel ° over the whole world.'

Actuated equally by theſe bigoted, theſe ambitious, and theſe intereſted, motives, the protector equipt two conſiderable ſquadrons; and, while he was making thoſe preparations, the neighbouring ſtates, ignorant of his intentions, remained in ſuſpenſe, and looked with anxious expectation on what ſide the ſtorm ſhould diſcharge itſelf. One of theſe ſquadrons, conſiſting of thirty capital ſhips, was ſent into the Mediterranean under Blake, whoſe fame was now ſpread over Europe. No Engliſh fleet, except during the cruſades, had ever before ſailed in thoſe ſeas; and, from one extremity to the other, there was no naval force, Chriſtian or Mahometan, able to reſiſt them. The Roman pontiff, whoſe weakneſs and whoſe pride equally provoked attacks, dreaded invaſion from a power which profeſſed the moſt inveterate enmity againſt him, and which ſo little regulated its movements by the uſual motives of intereſt and prudence. Blake, caſting anchor before Leghorn, demanded and obtained from the duke of Tuſcany reparation for ſome loſſes which the Engliſh commerce had formerly ſuſtained from him. He next ſailed to Algiers, and compelled the dey to make peace, and to reſtrain his piratical ſubjects from farther violences on the Engliſh. He

preſented himſelf before Tunis; and, having there made the ſame demands, the dey of that republic bade him look to the caſtles of Porto Farino and Goletta, and do his utmoſt. Blake needed not to be rouſed by ſuch a bravado; he drew his ſhips cloſe up to the caſtles, and tore them in pieces with his artillery: he ſent a numerous detachment of ſailors in their long boats into the harbour, and burned every ſhip which lay there. This bold action, which its very temerity perhaps rendered ſafe, was executed with little loſs, and filled all that part of the world with the renown of Engliſh valour.

JAMAICA CONQUERED.

The other ſquadron was not equally ſucceſsful. It was commanded by Pen, and carried on board four thouſand men, under the command of Venables. About five thouſand more joined them from Barbadoes and St. Chriſtopher's. Both theſe officers were inclined to the king's ſervice;[p] and it is pretended that Cromwell was obliged to hurry the ſoldiers on board, in order to prevent the execution of a conſpiracy, which had been formed among them in favour of the exiled family.[q] The ill ſucceſs of this enterpriſe may juſtly be aſcribed, as much to the injudicious ſchemes of the protector, who planned it, as to the bad execution of the officers by whom it was conducted. The ſoldiers were the refuſe of the whole army: the forces, inliſted in the Weſt Indies, were the moſt profligate of mankind: Pen and Venables were of incompatible tempers: the troops were not furniſhed with arms fit for ſuch an expedition: their proviſions were defective both in quantity and quality: all hopes of pillage, the beſt incentive to valour among ſuch men, were refuſed the ſoldiers and ſeamen: no directions or intelligence were given to conduct the officers in their enterpriſe; and at the ſame time

they were tied down to follow the advice of commiſſioners, who diſconcerted them in all their projects.

It was agreed by the admiral and general to attempt St. Domingo, the only place of ſtrength in the iſland of Hiſpaniola. On the approach of the Engliſh the Spaniards, in a fright, deſerted their houſes, and fled into the woods. Contrary to the opinion of Venables, the ſoldiers were diſembarked without guides ten leagues diſtant from the town. They wandered four days through the woods without proviſions, and, what was ſtill more intolerable in that ſultry climate, without water. The Spaniards recovered ſpirit, and attacked them. The Engliſh, diſcouraged with the bad conduct of their officers, and ſcarcely alive from hunger, thirſt, and fatigue, were unable to reſiſt. An inconſiderable number of the enemy put the whole army to rout, killed ſix hundred of them, and chaſed the reſt on board their veſſels.

The Engliſh commanders, in order to atone as much as poſſible for this unproſperous attempt, bent their courſe to Jamaica, which was ſurrendered to them without a blow. Pen and Venables returned to England, and were both of them ſent to the tower by the protector, who, though commonly maſter of his fiery temper, was thrown into a violent paſſion at this diſappointment. He had made a conqueſt of greater importance than he was himſelf at that time aware of, yet was it much inferior to the vaſt projects which he had formed. He gave orders, however, to ſupport it by men and money; and that iſland has ever ſince remained in the hands of the Engliſh; the chief acquiſition which they owe to the enterpriſing ſpirit of Cromwell.

As ſoon as the news of this expedition, which was an unwarrantable violation of treaty, arrived in Europe, the Spaniards declared war againſt England, and ſeized all the ſhips and goods

of Engliſh merchants of which they could make themſelves maſters. The commerce with Spain, ſo profitable to the Engliſh, was cut off; and near fifteen hundred veſſels, it is computed,[8] fell in a few years into the hands of the enemy. Blake, to whom Montague was now joined in command, after receiving new orders, prepared himſelf for hoſtilities againſt the Spaniards.

Several ſea officers, having entertained ſcruples of conſcience with regard to the juſtice of the Spaniſh war, threw up their commiſſions, and retired.[9] No commands, they thought, of their ſuperiors could juſtify a war which was contrary to the principles of natural equity, and which the civil magiſtrate had no right to order. Individuals, they maintained, in reſigning to the public their natural liberty, could beſtow on it only what they themſelves were poſſeſſed of, a right of performing lawful actions, and could inveſt it with no authority of commanding what is contrary to the decrees of heaven. Such maxims, though they ſeem reaſonable, are perhaps too perfect for human nature; and muſt be regarded as one effect, though of the moſt innocent and even honourable kind, of that ſpirit, partly fanatical, partly republican, which predominated in England.

SUCCESS OF ADMIRAL BLAKE. 1656.

Blake lay ſome time off Cadiz, in expectation of intercepting the plate fleet, but was at laſt obliged, for want of water, to make ſail towards Portugal. Captain Stayner, whom he had left on the coaſt with a ſquadron of ſeven veſſels, came in ſight of the galleons, and immediately ſet ſail to purſue them. The Spaniſh admiral ran his ſhip aſhore: two others followed his example. The Engliſh took two ſhips, valued at near two millions of pieces of eight. Two galleons were ſet on fire; and the mar-

quis of Badajox, viceroy of Peru, with his wife and his daughter, betrothed to the young duke of Medina Celi, were deſtroyed in them. The marquis himſelf might have eſcaped; but, ſeeing theſe unfortunate women, aſtoniſhed with the danger, fall in a ſwoon, and periſh in the flames, he rather choſe to die with them than drag out a life imbittered with the remembrance of ſuch diſmal ſcenes.[a] When the treaſures gained by this enterpriſe arrived at Portſmouth the protector, from a ſpirit of oſtentation, ordered them to be tranſported by land to London.

The next action againſt the Spaniards was more honourable, though leſs profitable to the nation. Blake, having heard that a Spaniſh fleet of ſixteen ſhips, much richer than the former, had taken ſhelter in the Canaries, immediately made ſail towards them. He found them in the bay of Santa Cruz, diſpoſed in a formidable poſture. The bay was ſecured with a ſtrong caſtle, well provided with cannon, beſides ſeven forts in ſeveral parts of it, all united by a line of communication, manned with muſqueteers. Don Diego Diaques, the Spaniſh admiral, ordered all his ſmaller veſſels to moor cloſe to the ſhore, and poſted the larger galleons farther off at anchor, with their broadſides to the ſea.

Blake was rather animated than daunted with this appearance. The wind ſeconded his courage, and, blowing full into the bay, in a moment brought him among the thickeſt of his enemies. After a reſiſtance of four hours, the Spaniards yielded to Engliſh valour, and abandoned their ſhips, which were ſet on fire, and conſumed with all their treaſure. The greateſt danger ſtill remained to the Engliſh. They lay under the fire of the caſtles and all the forts, which muſt in a little time have torn them in pieces. But the wind, ſuddenly ſhifting, carried them out of the bay; where they left the Spaniards in aſtoniſhment at the happy temerity of their audacious victors.

ADMIRAL BLAKE'S DEATH.

This was the laſt and greateſt action of the gallant Blake. He was conſumed with a dropſy and ſcurvy, and haſtened home, that he might yield up his breath in his native country, which he had ſo much adorned by his valour. As he came within ſight of land he expired.* Never man ſo zealous for a faction was ſo much reſpected and eſteemed, even by the oppoſite factions. He was by principle an inflexible republican; and the late uſurpations, amidſt all the truſt and careſſes which he received from the ruling powers, were thought to be very little grateful to him. 'It is ſtill our duty,' he ſaid to the ſeamen, 'to fight for our country, into what hands ſoever the government may fall.' Diſintereſted, generous, liberal; ambitious only of true glory, dreadful only to his avowed enemies; he forms one of the moſt perfect characters of the age, and the leaſt ſtained with thoſe errors and violences which were then ſo predominant. The protector ordered him a pompous funeral at the public charge; but the tears of his countrymen were the moſt honourable panegyric on his memory.

The conduct of the protector in foreign affairs, though imprudent and impolitic, was full of vigour and enterpriſe, and drew a conſideration to his country, which, ſince the reign of Elizabeth, it ſeemed to have totally loſt. The great mind of this ſucceſsful uſurper was intent on ſpreading the renown of the Engliſh nation; and, while he ſtruck mankind with aſtoniſhment at his extraordinary fortune, he ſeemed to ennoble, inſtead of debaſing, that people whom he had reduced to ſubjection. It was his boaſt that he would render the name of an Engliſhman as much feared and revered as ever was that of a Roman; and, as his countrymen found ſome reality in theſe pretenſions,

their national vanity being gratified, made them bear with more patience all the indignities and calamities under which they laboured.

CROMWELL'S DOMESTIC ADMINISTRATION.

It muſt alſo be acknowledged that the protector, in his civil and domeſtic adminiſtration, diſplayed as great regard both to juſtice and clemency as his uſurped authority, derived from no law, and founded only on the ſword, could poſſibly permit. All the chief offices in the courts of judicature were filled with men of integrity: amidſt the virulence of faction the decrees of the judges were upright and impartial; and to every man but himſelf, and to himſelf except where neceſſity required the contrary, the law was the great rule of conduct and behaviour. Vane and Lilburn, whoſe credit with the republicans and levellers he dreaded, were indeed for ſome time confined to priſon: Cony, who refuſed to pay illegal taxes, was obliged by menaces to depart from his obſtinacy: high courts of juſtice were erected to try thoſe who had engaged in conſpiracies and inſurrections againſt the protector's authority, and whom he could not ſafely commit to the verdict of juries. But theſe irregularities were deemed inevitable conſequences of his illegal authority. And, though often urged by his officers, as is pretended,[x] to attempt a general maſſacre of the royaliſts, he always with horror rejected ſuch ſanguinary counſels.

In the army was laid the ſole baſis of the protector's power; and in managing it conſiſted the chief art and delicacy of his government. The ſoldiers were held in exact diſcipline; a policy which both accuſtomed them to obedience, and made them leſs hateful and burdenſome to the people: he augmented their pay, though the public neceſſities ſometimes obliged him to run in

arrears to them: their intereſts, they were ſenſible, were cloſely connected with thoſe of their general and protector: and he entirely commanded their affectionate regard by his abilities and ſucceſs in almoſt every enterpriſe which he had hitherto undertaken. But all military government is precarious; much more where it ſtands in oppoſition to civil eſtabliſhments, and ſtill more where it encounters religious prejudices. By the wild fanaticiſm, which he had nouriſhed in the ſoldiers, he had ſeduced them into meaſures for which, if openly propoſed to them, they would have entertained the utmoſt averſion. But this ſame ſpirit rendered them more difficult to be governed, and made their caprices terrible even to that hand which directed their movements. So often taught that the office of king was an uſurpation upon Chriſt, they were apt to ſuſpect a protector not to be altogether compatible with that divine authority. Harriſon, though raiſed to the higheſt dignity, and poſſeſſed of Cromwell's confidence, became his moſt inveterate enemy as ſoon as the authority of a ſingle perſon was eſtabliſhed, againſt which that uſurper had always made ſuch violent proteſtations. Overton, Rich, Okey, officers of rank in the army, were actuated with like principles; and Cromwell was obliged to deprive them of their commiſſions. Their influence, which was before thought unbounded among the troops, ſeemed from that moment to be totally annihilated.

The more effectually to curb the enthuſiaſtic and ſeditious ſpirit of the troops, Cromwell eſtabliſhed a kind of militia in the ſeveral counties. Companies of infantry and cavalry were inliſted under proper officers, regular pay diſtributed among them, and a reſource by that means provided both againſt the inſurrections of the royaliſts and mutiny of the army.

Religion can never be deemed a point of ſmall conſequence in civil government; but during this period it may be regarded

as the great ſpring of men's actions and determinations. Though tranſported himſelf with the moſt frantic whimſies, Cromwell had adopted a ſcheme for regulating this principle in others which was ſagacious and political. Being reſolved to maintain a national church, yet determined neither to admit epiſcopacy nor preſbytery, he eſtabliſhed a number of commiſſioners, under the name of 'tryers;' partly laymen, partly eccleſiaſtics, ſome preſbyterians, ſome independents. Theſe preſented to all livings which were formerly in the gift of the crown; they examined and admitted ſuch perſons as received holy orders; and they inſpected the lives, doctrine, and behaviour, of the clergy. Inſtead of ſupporting that union between learning and theology, which has ſo long been attempted in Europe, theſe tryers embraced the latter principle in its full purity, and made it the ſole object of their examination. The candidates were no more perplexed with queſtions concerning their progreſs in Greek and Roman erudition, concerning their talent for profane arts and ſciences; the chief object of ſcrutiny regarded their advances in grace, and fixing the critical moment of their converſion.

With the pretended ſaints of all denominations Cromwell was familiar and eaſy. Laying aſide the ſtate of protector, which on other occaſions he well knew how to maintain, he inſinuated to them that nothing but neceſſity could ever oblige him to inveſt himſelf with it. He talked ſpiritually to them; he ſighed, he wept, he canted, he prayed: he even entered with them into an emulation of ghoſtly gifts; and theſe men, inſtead of grieving to be outdone in their own way, were proud that his highneſs, by his princely example, had dignified thoſe practices in which they themſelves were daily occupied.[y]

If Cromwell might be ſaid to adhere to any particular form of religion, they were the independents who could chiefly boaſt of his favour; and it may be affirmed that ſuch paſtors of that

ſect as were not paſſionately addicted to civil liberty were all of them devoted to him.

The preſbyterian clergy alſo, ſaved from the ravages of the anabaptiſts and millenarians, and enjoying their eſtabliſhments and tithes, were not averſe to his government; though he ſtill entertained a great jealouſy of that ambitious and reſtleſs ſpirit by which they were actuated. He granted an unbounded liberty of conſcience to all but catholics and prelatiſts; and by that means he both attached the wild ſectaries to his perſon, and employed them in curbing the domineering ſpirit of the preſbyterians. 'I am the only man,' he was often heard to ſay, 'who has known how to ſubdue that inſolent ſect, which can ſuffer none but itſelf.'

The proteſtant zeal, which poſſeſſed the preſbyterians and independents, was highly gratified by the haughty manner in which the protector ſo ſucceſsfully ſupported the perſecuted proteſtants throughout all Europe. Even the duke of Savoy, ſo remote a power, and ſo little expoſed to the naval force of England, was obliged, by the authority of France, to comply with his mediation, and to tolerate the proteſtants of the vallies, againſt whom that prince had commenced a furious perſecution. France itſelf was conſtrained to bear not only with the religion, but even in ſome inſtances with the ſeditious inſolence, of the hugonots; and, when the French court applied for a reciprocal toleration of the catholic religion in England, the protector, who arrogated in every thing the ſuperiority, would hearken to no ſuch propoſal. He had entertained a project of inſtituting a college, in imitation of that at Rome, for the propagation of the faith; and his apoſtles in zeal, though not in unanimity, had certainly been a full match for the catholics.

Cromwell retained the church of England in conſtraint, though he permitted its clergy a little more liberty than the republican

parliament had formerly allowed. He was pleaſed that the ſuperior lenity of his adminiſtration ſhould in every thing be remarked. He bridled the royaliſts, both by the army which he retained, and by thoſe ſecret ſpies which he found means to intermix in all their counſels. Manning being detected and puniſhed with death, he corrupted ſir Richard Willis, who was much truſted by chancellor Hyde and all the royaliſts; and by means of this man he was let into every deſign and conſpiracy of the party. He could diſconcert any project by confining the perſons who were to be the actors in it; and, as he reſtored them afterwards to liberty, his ſeverity paſſed only for the reſult of general jealouſy and ſuſpicion. The ſecret ſource of his intelligence remained ſtill unknown and unſuſpected.

Conſpiracies for an aſſaſſination he was chiefly afraid of, theſe being deſigns which no prudence or vigilance could evade. Colonel Titus, under the name of Allen, had written a ſpirited diſcourſe, exhorting every one to embrace this method of vengeance; and Cromwell knew that the inflamed minds of the royal party were ſufficiently diſpoſed to put the doctrine in practice againſt him. He openly told them that aſſaſſinations were baſe and odious, and he never would commence hoſtilities by ſo ſhameful an expedient; but, if the firſt attempt or provocation came from them, he would retaliate to the uttermoſt. He had inſtruments, he ſaid, whom he could employ; and he never would deſiſt till he had totally exterminated the royal family. This menace, more than all his guards, contributed to the ſecurity of his perſon.[x]

There was no point about which the protector was more ſolicitous than to procure intelligence. This article alone, it is ſaid, coſt him ſixty thouſand pounds a year. Poſtmaſters, both at home and abroad, were in his pay: carriers were ſearched or bribed: ſecretaries and clerks were corrupted: the greateſt

zealots in all parties were often thoſe who conveyed private information to him; and nothing could eſcape his vigilant enquiry. Such at leaſt is the repreſentation made by hiſtorians of Cromwell's adminiſtration. But it muſt be confeſſed that, if we may judge by thoſe volumes of Thurloe's papers which have been lately publiſhed, this affair, like many others, has been greatly magnified. We ſcarcely find, by that collection, that any ſecret counſels of foreign ſtates, except thoſe of Holland, which are not expected to be concealed, were known to the protector.

The general behaviour and deportment of this man, who had been raiſed from a very private ſtation, who had paſſed moſt of his youth in the country, and who was ſtill conſtrained ſo much to frequent bad company, was ſuch as might befit the greateſt monarch. He maintained a dignity without either affectation or oſtentation; and ſupported with all ſtrangers that high idea with which his great exploits and prodigious fortune had impreſſed them. Among his ancient friends he could relax himſelf; and, by trifling and amuſement,[a] jeſting and making verſes, he feared not expoſing himſelf to their moſt familiar approaches. With others he ſometimes puſhed matters to the length of ruſtic buffoonery; and he would amuſe himſelf by putting burning coals into the boots and hoſe[b] of the officers who attended him. Before the king's trial a meeting was agreed on between the chiefs of the republican party and the general officers, in order to concert the model of that free government which they were to ſubſtitute in the room of the monarchical conſtitution, now totally ſubverted. After debates on this ſubject, the moſt important that could fall under the diſcuſſion of human creatures, Ludlow tells us that Cromwell, by way of frolic, threw a cuſhion at his head; and, when Ludlow took up another cuſhion in order to return the compliment, the general ran down ſtairs, and had almoſt fallen in the hurry. When the high court of

juſtice was ſigning the warrant for the execution of the king, a matter, if poſſible, ſtill more ſerious, Cromwell, taking the pen in his hand, before he ſubſcribed his name, bedaubed with ink the face of Martin, who ſat next him; and, the pen being delivered to Martin,[c] he practiſed the ſame frolic upon Cromwell. He frequently gave feaſts to his inferior officers; and, when the meat was ſet upon the table, a ſignal was given; the ſoldiers ruſhed in upon them; and, with much noiſe, tumult, and confuſion, ran away with all the diſhes, and diſappointed the gueſts of their expected meal.[d]

That vein of frolic and pleaſantry, which made a part, however inconſiſtent, of Cromwell's character, was apt ſometimes to betray him into other inconſiſtencies, and to diſcover itſelf even where religion might ſeem to be a little concerned. It is a tradition that one day, ſitting at table, the protector had a bottle of wine brought him, of a kind which he valued ſo highly that he muſt needs open the bottle himſelf; but, in attempting it, the cork-ſcrew dropt from his hand. Immediately his courtiers and generals flung themſelves on the floor to recover it. Cromwell burſt out a laughing: 'Should any fool,' ſaid he, 'put in his head at the door, he would fancy, from your poſture, that you were ſeeking the Lord; and you are only ſeeking a cork-ſcrew.'

Amidſt all the unguarded play and buffoonery of this ſingular perſonage he took the opportunity of remarking the characters, deſigns, and weakneſſes, of men; and he would ſometimes puſh them, by an indulgence in wine, to open to him the moſt ſecret receſſes of their boſom. Great regularity, however, and even auſterity of manners, were always maintained in his court; and he was careful never, by any liberties, to give offence to the moſt rigid of the godly. Some ſtate was upheld, but with little expenſe, and without any ſplendour. The nobility, though courted

by him, kept at a diſtance, and diſdained to intermix with thoſe mean perſons who were the inſtruments of his government. Without departing from economy he was generous to thoſe who ſerved him; and he knew how to find out and engage in his intereſts every man poſſeſſed of thoſe talents which any particular employment demanded. His generals, his admirals, his judges, his ambaſſadors, were perſons who contributed, all of them in their ſeveral ſpheres, to the ſecurity of the protector, and to the honour and intereſt of the nation.

Under pretence of uniting Scotland and Ireland in one commonwealth with England, Cromwell had reduced thoſe kingdoms to a total ſubjection; and he treated them entirely as conquered provinces. The civil adminiſtration of Scotland was placed in a council conſiſting moſtly of Engliſh, of which lord Broghil was preſident. Juſtice was adminiſtered by ſeven judges, four of whom were Engliſh. In order to curb the tyrannical nobility, he both aboliſhed all vaſſalage [e] and revived the office of juſtice of peace, which king James had introduced, but was not able to ſupport.[f] A long line of forts and garriſons was maintained throughout the kingdom. An army [g] of ten thouſand men kept every thing in peace and obedience; and neither the banditti of the mountains, nor the bigots of the low countries, could indulge their inclination to turbulence and diſorder. He courted the preſbyterian clergy, though he nouriſhed that inteſtine enmity which prevailed between the reſolutioners and proteſters; and he found that very little policy was requiſite to foment quarrels among theologians. He permitted no church aſſemblies, being ſenſible that from thence had proceeded many of the paſt diſorders. And, in the main, the Scots were obliged to acknowledge that never before, while they enjoyed their irregular, factious liberty, had they attained ſo much happineſs as at preſent, when reduced to ſubjection under a foreign nation.

The protector's adminiſtration of Ireland was more ſevere and violent. The government of that iſland was firſt intruſted to Fleetwood, a notorious fanatic, who had married Ireton's widow; then to Henry Cromwell, ſecond ſon of the protector, a young man of an amiable, mild diſpoſition, and not deſtitute of vigour and capacity. About five millions of acres, forfeited either by the popiſh rebels or by the adherents of the king, were divided, partly among the adventurers, who had advanced money to the parliament, partly among the Engliſh ſoldiers, who had arrears due to them. Examples of a more ſudden and violent change of property are ſcarcely to be found in any hiſtory. An order was even iſſued to confine all the native Iriſh to the province of Connaught, where they would be ſhut up by rivers, lakes, and mountains; and could not, it was hoped, be any longer dangerous to the Engliſh government. But this barbarous and abſurd policy, which, from an impatience of attaining immediate ſecurity, muſt have depopulated all the other provinces, and rendered the Engliſh eſtates of no value, was ſoon abandoned as impracticable.

NEW PARLIAMENT.

Cromwell began to hope that, by his adminiſtration, attended with ſo much luſtre and ſucceſs abroad, ſo much order and tranquillity at home, he had now acquired ſuch authority as would enable him to meet the repreſentatives of the nation, and would aſſure him of their dutiful compliance with his government. He ſummoned a parliament; but, not truſting altogether to the good-will of the people, he uſed every art, which his new model of repreſentation allowed him to employ, in order to influence the elections, and fill the houſe with his own creatures. Ireland, being entirely in the hands of the army, choſe few but ſuch

officers as were moſt acceptable to him. Scotland ſhewed a like compliance; and, as the nobility and gentry of that kingdom regarded their attendance on Engliſh parliaments as an ignominious badge of ſlavery, it was, on that account, more eaſy for the officers to prevail in the elections. Notwithſtanding all theſe precautions, the protector ſtill found that the majority would not be favourable to him. He ſet guards, therefore, on the door, who permitted none to enter but ſuch as produced a warrant from his council; and the council rejected about a hundred, who either refuſed a recognition of the protector's government, or were on other accounts obnoxious to him. Theſe proteſted againſt ſo egregious a violence, ſubverſive of all liberty; but every application for redreſs was neglected both by the council and the parliament.

The majority of the parliament, by means of theſe arts and violences, was now at laſt either friendly to the protector, or reſolved by their compliance to adjuſt, if poſſible, this military government to their laws and liberties. They voted a renunciation of all title in Charles Stuart, or any of his family; and this was the firſt act, dignified with the appearance of national conſent, which had ever had that tendency. Colonel Jephſon, in order to ſound the inclinations of the houſe, ventured to move that the parliament ſhould beſtow the crown on Cromwell; and no ſurpriſe or reluctance was diſcovered on the occaſion. When Cromwell afterwards aſked Jephſon what induced him to make ſuch a motion, 'As long,' ſaid Jephſon, 'as I have the honour to ſit in parliament I muſt follow the dictates of my own conſcience, whatever offence I may be ſo unfortunate as to give you.' 'Get thee gone,' ſaid Cromwell, giving him a gentle blow on the ſhoulder, 'get thee gone, for a mad fellow, as thou art.'

In order to pave the way to this advancement, for which he ſo ardently longed, Cromwell reſolved to ſacrifice his major-

generals, whom he knew to be extremely odious to the nation. That meaſure was alſo become neceſſary for his own ſecurity. All government, purely military, fluctuates perpetually between a deſpotic monarchy and a deſpotic ariſtocracy, according as the authority of the chief commander prevails, or that of the officers next him in rank and dignity. The major-generals, being poſſeſſed of ſo much diſtinct juriſdiction, began to eſtabliſh a ſeparate title to power, and had rendered themſelves formidable to the protector himſelf; and for this inconvenience, though he had not foreſeen it, he well knew, before it was too late, to provide a proper remedy. Claypole, his ſon-in-law, who poſſeſſed his confidence, abandoned them to the pleaſure of the houſe; and, though the name was ſtill retained, it was agreed to abridge, or rather entirely annihilate, the power of the major-generals.

At length a motion in form was made by alderman Pack, one of the city members, for inveſting the protector with the dignity of King. This motion at firſt excited great diſorder, and divided the whole houſe into parties. The chief oppoſition came from the uſual adherents of the protector, the major-generals, and ſuch officers as depended on them. Lambert, a man of deep intrigue, and of great intereſt in the army, had long entertained the ambition of ſucceeding Cromwell in the protectorſhip; and he foreſaw that, if the monarchy were reſtored, hereditary right would alſo be eſtabliſhed, and the crown be tranſmitted to the poſterity of the prince firſt elected. He pleaded, therefore, conſcience; and, rouſing all thoſe civil and religious jealouſies againſt kingly government, which had been ſo induſtriouſly encouraged among the ſoldiers, and which ſerved them as a pretence for ſo many violences, he raiſed a numerous, and ſtill more formidable, party againſt the motion.

On the other hand the motion was ſupported by every one who was more particularly devoted to the protector, and who hoped, by ſo acceptable a meaſure, to pay court to the prevailing authority. Many perſons alſo, attached to their country, deſpaired of ever being able to ſubvert the preſent illegal eſtabliſhment; and were deſirous, by fixing it on ancient foundations, to induce the protector, from views of his own ſafety, to pay a regard to the ancient laws and liberties of the kingdom. Even the royaliſts imprudently joined in the meaſure; and hoped that, when the queſtion regarded only perſons, not forms of government, no one would any longer balance between the ancient royal family and an ignoble uſurper, who by blood, treaſon, and perfidy, had made his way to the throne. The bill was voted by a conſiderable majority; and a committee was appointed to reaſon with the protector, and to overcome thoſe ſcruples which he pretended againſt accepting ſo liberal an offer.

The conference laſted for ſeveral days. The committee urged that all the ſtatutes and cuſtoms of England were founded on the ſuppoſition of regal authority, and could not, without extreme violence, be adjuſted to any other form of government: that a protector, except during the minority of a king, was a name utterly unknown to the laws; and no man was acquainted with the extent or limits of his authority: that, if it were attempted to define every part of his juriſdiction, many years, if not ages, would be required for the execution of ſo complicated a work; if the whole power of the king were at once transferred to him the queſtion was plainly about a name, and the preference was indiſputably due to the ancient title: that the Engliſh conſtitution was more anxious concerning the form of govern-

ment than concerning the birthright of the firſt magiſtrate, and had provided, by an expreſs law of Henry VII, for the ſecurity of thoſe who act in defence of the king in being, by whatever means he might have acquired poſſeſſion: that it was extremely the intereſt of all his highneſs's friends to ſeek the ſhelter of this ſtatute; and even the people in general were deſirous of ſuch a ſettlement, and in all juries were with great difficulty induced to give their verdict in favour of a protector: that the great ſource of all the late commotions had been the jealouſy of liberty; and that a republic, together with a protector, had been eſtabliſhed in order to provide farther ſecurities for the freedom of the conſtitution; but that by experience the remedy had been found inſufficient, even dangerous and pernicious; ſince every undeterminate power, ſuch as that of a protector, muſt be arbitrary; and the more arbitrary as it was contrary to the genius and inclination of the people.

The difficulty conſiſted not in perſuading Cromwell. He was ſufficiently convinced of the ſolidity of theſe reaſons; and his inclination, as well as judgment, was entirely on the ſide of the committee. But how to bring over the ſoldiers to the ſame way of thinking was the queſtion. The office of king had been painted to them in ſuch horrible colours, that there were no hopes of reconciling them ſuddenly to it, even though beſtowed upon their general, to whom they were ſo much devoted. A contradiction, open and direct, to all paſt profeſſions, would make them paſs, in the eyes of the whole nation, for the moſt ſhameleſs hypocrites, inliſted, by no other than mercenary motives, in the cauſe of the moſt perfidious traitor. Principles, ſuch as they were, had been encouraged in them by every conſideration human and divine; and, though it was eaſy where intereſt concurred to deceive them by the thinneſt diſguiſes, it might be found dangerous at once to pull off the maſk, and to

ſhew them in a full light the whole crime and deformity of their conduct. Suſpended between theſe fears and his own moſt ardent deſires, Cromwell protracted the time, and ſeemed ſtill to oppoſe the reaſonings of the committee, in hopes that by artifice he might be able to reconcile the refractory minds of the ſoldiers to his new dignity.

While the protector argued ſo much in contradiction both to his judgment and inclination, it is no wonder that his elocution, always confuſed, embarraſſed, and unintelligible, ſhould be involved in tenfold darkneſs, and diſcover no glimmering of common ſenſe or reaſon. An exact account of this conference remains, and may be regarded as a great curioſity. The members of the committee, in their reaſonings, diſcover judgment, knowledge, elocution: lord Broghil, in particular, exerts himſelf on this memorable occaſion. But what a contraſt when we paſs to the protector's replies! After ſo ſingular a manner does nature diſtribute her talents, that, in a nation abounding with ſenſe and learning, a man, who by ſuperior perſonal merit alone had made his way to ſupreme dignity, and had even obliged the parliament to make him a tender of the crown, was yet incapable of expreſſing himſelf on this occaſion but in a manner which a peaſant of the moſt ordinary capacity would juſtly be aſhamed of.[h]

CROMWELL REJECTS THE CROWN.

The oppoſition which Cromwell dreaded was not that which came from Lambert and his adherents, whom he now regarded as capital enemies, and whom he was reſolved, on the firſt occaſion, to deprive of all power and authority: it was that which he met with in his own family, and from men who, by intereſt as well as inclination, were the moſt devoted to him. Fleet-

wood had married his daughter, Deſborow his ſiſter: yet theſe men, actuated by principle alone, could by no perſuaſion, artifice, or entreaty, be induced to conſent that their friend and patron ſhould be inveſted with regal dignity. They told him that, if he accepted of the crown, they would inſtantly throw up their commiſſions, and never afterwards ſhould have it in their power to ſerve him.[1] Colonel Pride procured a petition againſt the office of king, ſigned by a majority of the officers who were in London and the neighbourhood. Several perſons, it is ſaid, had entered into an engagement to murder the protector within a few hours after he ſhould have accepted the offer of the parliament. Some ſudden mutiny in the army was juſtly dreaded. And, upon the whole, Cromwell, after the agony and perplexity of long doubt, was at laſt obliged to refuſe that crown which the repreſentatives of the nation, in the moſt ſolemn manner, had tendered to him. Moſt hiſtorians are inclined to blame his choice; but he muſt be allowed the beſt judge of his own ſituation. And in ſuch complicated ſubjects the alteration of a very minute circumſtance, unknown to the ſpectator, will often be ſufficient to caſt the balance, and render a determination, which in itſelf may be uneligible, very prudent, or even abſolutely neceſſary to the actor.

A dream, or prophecy, lord Clarendon mentions, which he affirms (and he muſt have known the truth) was univerſally talked of almoſt from the beginning of the civil wars, and long before Cromwell was ſo conſiderable a perſon as to beſtow upon it any degree of probability. In this prophecy it was foretold that Cromwell ſhould be the greateſt man in England, and would nearly, but never would fully, mount the throne. Such a prepoſſeſſion probably aroſe from the heated imagination either of himſelf or of his followers; and, as it might be one cauſe of the great progreſs which he had already made, it is not an un-

likely reaſon which may be aſſigned for his refuſing at this time any farther elevation.

HUMBLE PETITION AND ADVICE.

THE parliament, when the regal dignity was rejected by Cromwell, found themſelves obliged to retain the name of a commonwealth and protector; and, as the government was hitherto a manifeſt uſurpation, it was thought proper to ſanctify it by a ſeeming choice of the people and their repreſentatives. Inſtead of the inſtrument of government, which was the work of the general officers alone, humble petition and advice was framed, and offered to the protector by the parliament. This was repreſented as the great baſis of the republican eſtabliſhment, regulating and limiting the powers of each member of the conſtitution, and ſecuring the liberty of the people to the moſt remote poſterity. By this deed the authority of protector was in ſome particulars enlarged; in others it was conſiderably diminiſhed. He had the power of nominating his ſucceſſor; he had a perpetual revenue aſſigned him, a million a year for the pay of the fleet and army, three hundred thouſand pounds for the ſupport of civil government; and he had authority to name another houſe, who ſhould enjoy their ſeats during life, and exerciſe ſome functions of the former houſe of peers. But he abandoned the power aſſumed in the intervals of parliament, of framing laws with the conſent of his council; and he agreed that no members of either houſe ſhould be excluded but by the conſent of that houſe of which they were members. The other articles were in the main the ſame as in the inſtrument of government. The inſtrument of government Cromwell had formerly extolled as the moſt perfect work of human invention; he now repreſented it as a rotten plank, upon which no man

could truſt himſelf without ſinking. Even the humble petition and advice, which he extolled in its turn, appeared ſo lame and imperfect, that it was found requiſite this very ſeſſion to mend it by a ſupplement; and after all it may be regarded as a crude and undigeſted model of government. It was, however, accepted for the voluntary deed of the whole people in the three united nations; and Cromwell, as if his power had juſt commenced from this popular conſent, was anew inaugurated, in Weſtminſter-hall, after the moſt ſolemn and moſt pompous manner.

The parliament having adjourned itſelf, the protector deprived Lambert of all his commiſſions; but ſtill allowed him a conſiderable penſion of two thouſand pounds a year, as a bribe for his future peaceable deportment. Lambert's authority in the army, to the ſurpriſe of every body, was found immediately to expire with the loſs of his commiſſion. Packer and ſome other officers, whom Cromwell ſuſpected, were alſo diſplaced.

Richard, eldeſt ſon of the protector, was brought to court, introduced into public buſineſs, and thenceforth regarded by many as his heir in the protectorſhip; though Cromwell ſometimes employed the groſs artifice of flattering others with hopes of the ſucceſſion. Richard was a perſon poſſeſſed of the moſt peaceable, inoffenſive, unambitious character; and had hitherto lived contentedly in the country on a ſmall eſtate which his wife had brought him. All the activity which he diſcovered, and which never was great, was however exerted to beneficent purpoſes: at the time of the king's trial he had fallen on his knees before his father, and had conjured him, by every tie of duty and humanity, to ſpare the life of that monarch. Cromwell had two daughters unmarried: one of them he now gave in marriage to the grandſon and heir of his great friend the earl of Warwick, with whom he had, in every fortune, preſerved

an uninterrupted intimacy and good correſpondence. The other he married to the viſcount Fauconberg, of a family formerly devoted to the royal party. He was ambitious of forming connexions with the nobility; and it was one chief motive for his deſiring the title of king that he might replace every thing in its natural order, and reſtore to the ancient families the truſt and honour of which he now found himſelf obliged, for his own ſafety, to deprive them.

The parliament was again aſſembled; conſiſting, as in the times of monarchy, of two houſes, the commons and the other houſe. Cromwell, during the interval, had ſent writs to his houſe of peers, which conſiſted of ſixty members. They were compoſed of five or ſix ancient peers, of ſeveral gentlemen of fortune and diſtinction, and of ſome officers who had riſen from the meaneſt ſtations. None of the ancient peers, however, though ſummoned by writ, would deign to accept of a ſeat which they muſt ſhare with ſuch companions as were aſſigned them. The protector endeavoured at firſt to maintain the appearance of a legal magiſtrate. He placed no guard at the door of either houſe; but ſoon found how incompatible liberty is with military uſurpations. By bringing ſo great a number of his friends and adherents into the other houſe he had loſt the majority among the national repreſentatives. In conſequence of a clauſe in the humble petition and advice, the commons aſſumed a power of re-admitting thoſe members whom the council had formerly excluded. Sir Arthur Hazelrig and ſome others, whom Cromwell had created lords, rather choſe to take their ſeat with the commons. An inconteſtable majority now declared themſelves againſt the protector; and they refuſed to acknowledge the juriſdiction of that other houſe which he had eſtabliſhed. Even the validity of the humble petition and advice was queſtioned, as being voted by a parliament which lay under force,

and which was deprived, by military violence, of a conſiderable number of its members. The protector, dreading combinations between the parliament and the malcontents in the army, reſolved to allow no leiſure for forming any conſpiracy againſt him; and, with expreſſions of great diſpleaſure, he diſſolved the parliament. When urged, by Fleetwood and others of his friends, not to precipitate himſelf into this raſh meaſure, he ſwore by the living God that they ſhould not ſit a moment longer.

Theſe diſtractions at home were not able to take off the protector's attention from foreign affairs; and in all his meaſures he proceeded with the ſame vigour and enterpriſe as if ſecure of the duty and attachment of the three kingdoms. His alliance with Sweden he ſtill ſupported; and he endeavoured to aſſiſt that crown in its ſucceſsful enterpriſes for reducing all its neighbours to ſubjection, and rendering itſelf abſolute maſter of the Baltic. As ſoon as Spain declared war againſt him he concluded a peace and an alliance with France, and united himſelf in all his counſels with that potent and ambitious kingdom. Spain, having long courted in vain the friendſhip of the ſucceſsful uſurper, was reduced at laſt to apply to the unfortunate prince. Charles formed a league with Philip, removed his ſmall court to Bruges in the Low Countries, and raiſed four regiments of his own ſubjects, whom he employed in the Spaniſh ſervice. The duke of York, who had with applauſe ſerved ſome campaigns in the French army, and who had merited the particular eſteem of marſhal Turenne, now joined his brother, and continued to ſeek military experience under don John of Auſtria and the prince of Conde.

DUNKIRK TAKEN. 1658.

THE ſcheme of foreign politics adopted by the protector was highly imprudent, but was ſuitable to that magnanimity and enterpriſe with which he was ſo ſignally endowed. He was particularly deſirous of conqueſt and dominion on the continent;[k] and he ſent over into Flanders ſix thouſand men under Reynolds, who joined the French army commanded by Turenne. In the former campaign Mardyke was taken, and put into the hands of the Engliſh. Early this campaign ſiege was laid to Dunkirk; and, when the Spaniſh army advanced to relieve it, the combined armies of France and England marched out of their trenches, and fought the battle of the Dunes, where the Spaniards were totally defeated.[l] The valour of the Engliſh was much remarked on this occaſion. Dunkirk, being ſoon after ſurrendered, was by agreement delivered to Cromwell. He committed the government of that important place to Lockhart, a Scotchman of abilities, who had married his niece, and was his ambaſſador at the court of France.

This acquiſition was regarded by the protector as the means only of obtaining farther advantages. He was reſolved to concert meaſures with the French court for the final conqueſt and partition of the Low Countries.[m] Had he lived much longer, and maintained his authority in England, ſo chimerical, or rather ſo dangerous, a project would certainly have been carried into execution. And this firſt and principal ſtep towards more extenſive conqueſt, which France during a whole century has never yet been able, by an infinite expenſe of blood and treaſure, fully to attain, had at once been accompliſhed by the enterpriſing, though unſkilful, politics of Cromwell.

During theſe tranſactions great demonſtrations of mutual friendſhip and regard paſſed between the French king and the protector. Lord Fauconberg, Cromwell's ſon-in-law, was diſpatched to Louis, then in the camp before Dunkirk; and was received with the regard uſually paid to foreign princes by the French court.[n] Mazarine ſent to London his nephew Mancini, along with the duke of Crequi; and expreſſed his regret that his urgent affairs ſhould deprive him of the honour, which he had long wiſhed for, of paying in perſon his reſpects to the greateſt man in the world.[o]

The protector reaped little ſatisfaction from the ſucceſs of his arms abroad; the ſituation in which he ſtood at home kept him in perpetual uneaſineſs and inquietude. His adminiſtration, ſo expenſive both by military enterpriſes and ſecret intelligence, had exhauſted his revenue, and involved him in a conſiderable debt. The royaliſts, he heard, had renewed their conſpiracies for a general inſurrection; and Ormond was ſecretly come over with a view of concerting meaſures for the execution of this project. Lord Fairfax, ſir William Waller, and many heads of the preſbyterians, had ſecretly entered into the engagement. Even the army was infected with the general ſpirit of diſcontent; and ſome ſudden and dangerous eruption was every moment to be dreaded from it. No hopes remained, after his violent breach with the laſt parliament, that he ſhould ever be able to eſtabliſh, with general conſent, a legal ſettlement, or temper the military with any mixture of civil authority. All his arts and policy were exhauſted; and, having ſo often, by fraud and falſe pretences, deceived every party, and almoſt every individual, he could no longer hope, by repeating the ſame profeſſions, to meet with equal confidence and regard.

However zealous the royaliſts, their conſpiracy took not effect; Willis diſcovered the whole to the protector. Ormond was

obliged to fly; and he deemed himſelf fortunate to have eſcaped ſo vigilant an adminiſtration. Great numbers were thrown into priſon. A high court of juſtice was anew erected for the trial of thoſe criminals whoſe guilt was moſt apparent. Notwithſtanding the recognition of his authority by the laſt parliament, the protector could not as yet truſt to an unbiaſſed jury. Sir Henry Slingſby and Dr. Huet were condemned and beheaded. Mordaunt, brother to the earl of Peterborow, narrowly eſcaped. The numbers for his condemnation and his acquittal were equal; and, juſt as the ſentence was pronounced in his favour, colonel Pride, who was reſolved to condemn him, came into court. Aſhton, Storey, and Beſtley, were hanged in different ſtreets of the city.

The conſpiracy of the millenarians in the army ſtruck Cromwell with ſtill greater apprehenſions. Harriſon and the other diſcarded officers of that party could not remain at reſt. Stimulated equally by revenge, by ambition, and by conſcience, they ſtill harboured in their breaſt ſome deſperate project; and there wanted not officers in the army who, from like motives, were diſpoſed to ſecond all their undertakings. The levellers and agitators had been encouraged by Cromwell to interpoſe with their advice in all political deliberations; and he had even pretended to honour many of them with his intimate friendſhip while he conducted his daring enterpriſes againſt the king and the parliament. It was a uſual practice with him, in order to familiarize himſelf the more with the agitators, who were commonly corporals or ſerjeants, to take them to bed with him, and there, after prayers and exhortations, to diſcuſs together their projects and principles, political as well as religious. Having aſſumed the dignity of protector, he excluded them from all his councils, and had neither leiſure nor inclination to indulge them any farther in their wonted familiarities. Among

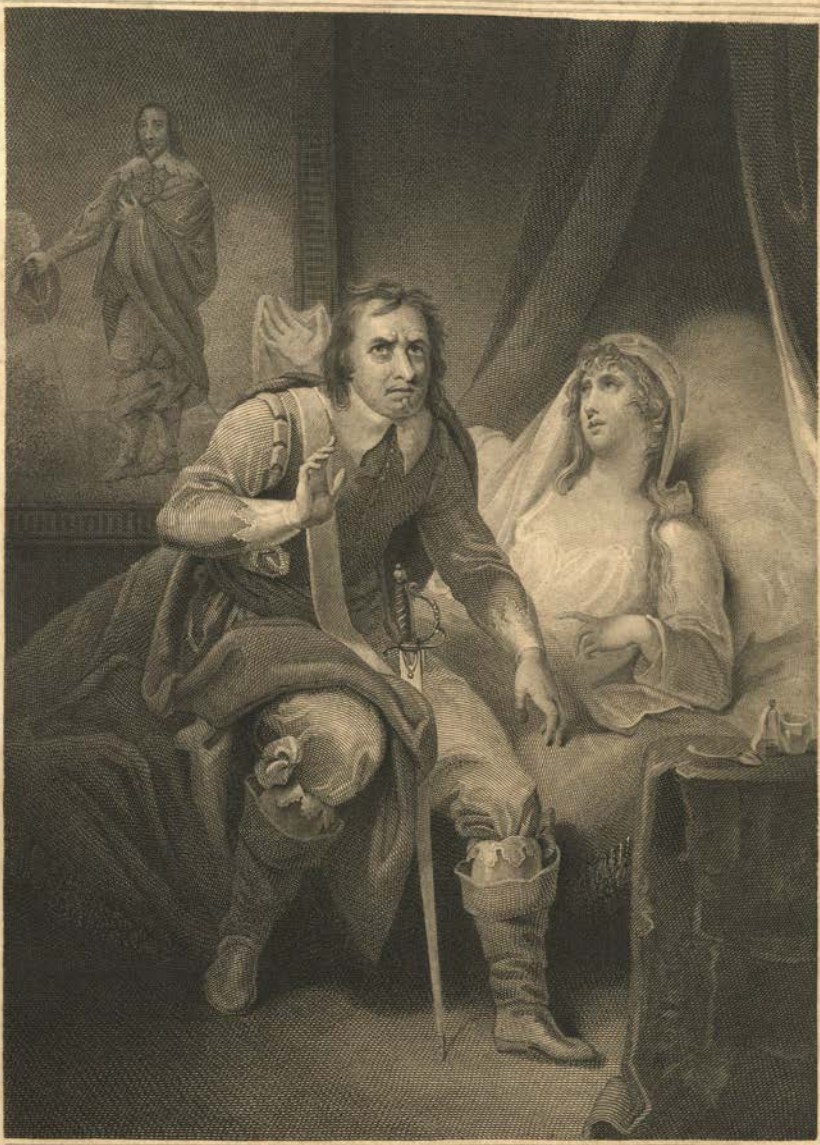
thoſe who were enraged at this treatment was Sexby, an active agitator, who now employed againſt him all that reſtleſs induſtry which had formerly been exerted in his favour. He even went ſo far as to enter into a correſpondence with Spain; and Cromwell, who knew the diſtempers of the army, was juſtly afraid of ſome mutiny, to which a day, an hour, an inſtant, might provide leaders.

Of aſſaſſinations likewiſe he was apprehenſive, from the zealous ſpirit which actuated the ſoldiers. Sindercome had undertaken to murder him; and, by the moſt unaccountable accidents, had often been prevented from executing his bloody purpoſe. His deſign was diſcovered; but the protector could never find the bottom of the enterpriſe, nor detect any of his accomplices. He was tried by a jury; and, notwithſtanding the general odium attending that crime, notwithſtanding the clear and full proof of his guilt, ſo little conviction prevailed of the protector's right to the ſupreme government, it was with the utmoſt difficulty that this conſpirator was condemned.[P] When every thing was prepared for his execution he was found dead, from poiſon, as is ſuppoſed, which he had voluntarily taken.

The protector might better have ſupported thoſe fears and apprehenſions, which the public diſtempers occaſioned, had he enjoyed any domeſtic ſatisfaction, or poſſeſſed any cordial friend of his own family in whoſe boſom he could ſafely have unloaded his anxious and corroding cares. But Fleetwood, his ſon-in-law, actuated by the wildeſt zeal, began to eſtrange himſelf from him; and was enraged to diſcover that Cromwell, in all his enterpriſes, had entertained views of promoting his own grandeur more than of encouraging piety and religion, of which he made ſuch fervent profeſſions. His eldeſt daughter, married to Fleetwood, had adopted republican principles ſo vehement, that ſhe could not with patience behold power lodged in a ſingle perſon,

even in her indulgent father. His other daughters were no leſs prejudiced in favour of the royal cauſe, and regretted the violences and iniquities into which they thought their family had ſo unhappily been tranſported. Above all, the ſickneſs of Mrs. Claypole, his peculiar favourite, a lady endued with many humane virtues and amiable accompliſhments, depreſſed his anxious mind, and poiſoned all his enjoyments. She had entertained a high regard for Dr. Huet, lately executed; and, being refuſed his pardon, the melancholy of her temper, increaſed by her diſtempered body, had prompted her to lament to her father all his ſanguinary meaſures, and urge him to compunction for thoſe heinous crimes into which his fatal ambition had betrayed him. Her death, which followed ſoon after, gave new edge to every word which ſhe had uttered.

All compoſure of mind was now for ever fled from the protector: he felt that the grandeur, which he had attained with ſo much guilt and courage, could not enſure him that tranquillity which it belongs to virtue alone, and moderation, fully to aſcertain. Overwhelmed with the load of public affairs, dreading perpetually ſome fatal accident in his diſtempered government, ſeeing nothing around him but treacherous friends or enraged enemies, poſſeſſing the confidence of no party, reſting his title on no principle, civil or religious, he found his power to depend on ſo delicate a poiſe of factions and intereſts as the ſmalleſt event was able, without any preparation, in a moment to overturn. Death too, which with ſuch ſignal intrepidity he had braved in the field, being inceſſantly threatened by the poniards of fanatical or intereſted aſſaſſins, was ever preſent to his terrified apprehenſion, and haunted him in every ſcene of buſineſs or repoſe. Each action of his life betrayed the terrors under which he laboured. The aſpect of ſtrangers was uneaſy to him. With a piercing and anxious eye he ſurveyed every face to which



THE DAUGHTER OF CROMWEL URGING HIM TO REPENTANCE.

he was not daily accuſtomed. He never moved a ſtep without ſtrong guards attending him. He wore armour under his clothes, and farther ſecured himſelf by offenſive weapons; a ſword, falchion, and piſtols; which he always carried about him. He returned from no place by the direct road, or by the ſame way which he went. Every journey he performed with hurry and precipitation. Seldom he ſlept above three nights together in the ſame chamber: and he never let it be known beforehand what chamber he intended to chooſe, nor intruſted himſelf in any which was not provided with back doors, at which centinels were carefully placed. Society terrified him while he reflected on his numerous, unknown, and implacable, enemies: ſolitude aſtoniſhed him, by withdrawing that protection which he found ſo neceſſary for his ſecurity.

SICKNESS OF THE PROTECTOR.

His body alſo, from the contagion of his anxious mind, began to be affected; and his health ſeemed ſenſibly to decline. He was ſeized with a ſlow fever, which changed into a tertian ague. For the ſpace of a week no dangerous ſymptoms appeared; and in the intervals of the fits he was able to walk abroad. At length the fever increaſed, and he himſelf began to entertain ſome thoughts of death, and to caſt his eye towards that future exiſtence whoſe idea had once been intimately preſent to him; though ſince, in the hurry of affairs, and in the ſhock of wars and factions, it had, no doubt, been conſiderably obliterated. He aſked Goodwin, one of his preachers, if the doctrine were true that the elect could never fall, or ſuffer a final reprobation. 'Nothing more certain,' replied the preacher. 'Then am I ſafe,' ſaid the protector; 'for I am ſure that once I was in a ſtate of grace.'

His phyſicians were ſenſible of the perilous condition to which his diſtemper had reduced him: but his chaplains, by their prayers, viſions, and revelations, ſo buoyed up his hopes, that he began to believe his life out of all danger. A favourable anſwer, it was pretended, had been returned by heaven to the petitions of all the godly; and he relied on their aſſeverations much more than on the opinion of the moſt experienced phyſicians. 'I tell you,' he cried with confidence to the latter, 'I tell you I ſhall not die of this diſtemper: I am well aſſured of my recovery: it is promiſed by the Lord, not only to my ſupplications, but to thoſe of men who hold a ſtricter commerce and more intimate correſpondence with him. Ye may have ſkill in your profeſſion; but nature can do more than all the phyſicians in the world,[q] and God is far above nature.' Nay, to ſuch a degree of madneſs did their enthuſiaſtic aſſurances mount, that, upon a faſt day, which was obſerved on his account both at Hampton-court and at Whitehall, they did not ſo much pray for his health as give thanks for the undoubted pledges which they had received of his recovery. He himſelf was overheard offering up his addreſſes to heaven; and ſo far had the illuſions of fanaticiſm prevailed over the plaineſt dictates of natural morality, that he aſſumed more the character of a mediator, in interceding for his people, than that of a criminal, whoſe atrocious violation of ſocial duty had, from every tribunal, human and divine, merited the ſevereſt vengeance.

PROTECTOR'S DEATH.

Meanwhile all the ſymptoms began to wear a more fatal aſpect; and the phyſicians were obliged to break ſilence, and to declare that the protector could not ſurvive the next fit with which he was threatened. The council was alarmed. A depu-

tation was ſent to know his will with regard to his ſucceſſor. His ſenſes were gone, and he could not now expreſs his intentions. They aſked him whether he did not mean that his eldeſt ſon Richard ſhould ſucceed him in the protectorſhip. A ſimple affirmative was, or ſeemed to be, extorted from him. Soon after, on the third of September, that very day which he had always conſidered as the moſt fortunate for him, he expired. A violent tempeſt, which immediately ſucceeded his death, ſerved as a ſubject of diſcourſe to the vulgar. His partiſans, as well as his enemies, were fond of remarking this event, and each of them endeavoured, by forced inferences, to interpret it as a confirmation of their particular prejudices.

HIS CHARACTEI

THE writers attached to the memory of this wonderful perſon make his character, with regard to abilities, bear the air of the moſt extravagant panegyric: his enemies form ſuch a repreſentation of his moral qualities as reſembles the moſt virulent invective. Both of them, it muſt be confeſſed, are ſupported by ſuch ſtriking circumſtances, in his conduct and fortune, as beſtow on their repreſentation a great air of probability. 'What can be more extraordinary,' it is ſaid,[r] 'than that a perſon of private birth and education, no fortune, no eminent qualities of body, which have ſometimes, nor ſhining talents of mind, which have often, raiſed men to the higheſt dignities, ſhould have the courage to attempt, and the abilities to execute, ſo great a deſign as the ſubverting one of the moſt ancient and beſt eſtabliſhed monarchies in the world? That he ſhould have the power and boldneſs to put his prince and maſter to an open and infamous death? Should baniſh that numerous and ſtrongly allied family? Cover all theſe temerities under a ſeeming obedience to a par-

liament, in whoſe ſervice he pretended to be retained? Trample too upon that parliament in their turn, and ſcornfully expel them as ſoon as they gave him ground of diſſatisfaction? Erect in their place the dominion of the ſaints, and give reality to the moſt viſionary idea which the heated imagination of any fanatic was ever able to entertain? Suppreſs again that monſter in its infancy, and openly ſet up himſelf above all things that ever were called ſovereign in England? Overcome firſt all his enemies by arms, and all his friends afterwards by artifice? Serve all parties patiently for a while, and command them victoriouſly at laſt? Overrun each corner of the three nations, and ſubdue, with equal facility, both the riches of the ſouth, and the poverty of the north? Be feared and courted by all foreign princes, and be adopted a brother to the gods of the earth? Call together parliaments with a word of his pen, and ſcatter them again with the breath of his mouth? Reduce to ſubjection a warlike and diſcontented nation by means of a mutinous army? Command a mutinous army by means of ſeditious and factious officers? Be humbly and daily petitioned that he would be pleaſed, at the rate of millions a year, to be hired as maſter of thoſe who had hired him before to be their ſervant? Have the eſtates and lives of three nations as much at his diſpoſal as was once the little inheritance of his father, and be as noble and liberal in the ſpending of them? And laſtly (for there is no end of enumerating every particular of his glory), with one word bequeath all this power and ſplendour to his poſterity? Die poſſeſſed of peace at home, and triumph abroad? Be buried among kings, and with more than regal ſolemnity; and leave a name behind him not to be extinguiſhed but with the whole world; which, as it was too little for his praiſe, ſo might it have been for his conqueſts, if the ſhort line of his mortal life could have ſtretched out to the extent of his immortal deſigns?'

My intention is not to disfigure this picture, drawn by so masterly a hand: I shall only endeavour to remove from it somewhat of the marvellous; a circumstance which on all occasions gives much ground for doubt and suspicion. It seems to me that the circumstance of Cromwell's life, in which his abilities are principally discovered, is his rising from a private station, in opposition to so many rivals, so much advanced before him, to a high command and authority in the army. His great courage, his signal military talents, his eminent dexterity and address, were all requisite for this important acquisition. Yet will not this promotion appear the effect of supernatural abilities when we consider that Fairfax himself, a private gentleman, who had not the advantage of a seat in parliament, had, through the same steps, attained even a superior rank, and, if endued with common capacity and penetration, had been able to retain it. To incite such an army to rebellion against the parliament required no uncommon art or industry; to have kept them in obedience had been the more difficult enterprise. When the breach was once formed between the military and civil powers, a supreme and absolute authority from that moment is devolved on the general; and, if he be afterwards pleased to employ artifice or policy, it may be regarded on most occasions as great condescension, if not as superfluous caution. That Cromwell was ever able really to blind or overreach either the king or the republicans, does not appear: as they possessed no means of resisting the force under his command, they were glad to temporise with him, and, by seeming to be deceived, wait for opportunities of freeing themselves from his dominion. If he seduced the military fanatics, it is to be considered that their interests and his evidently concurred, that their ignorance and low education exposed them to the grossest imposition, and that he himself was at bottom as frantic an enthusiast as the

worſt of them, and, in order to obtain their confidence, needed but to diſplay thoſe vulgar and ridiculous habits which he had early acquired, and on which he ſet ſo high a value. An army is ſo forcible, and at the ſame time ſo coarſe a weapon, that any hand which wields it may, without much dexterity, perform any operation, and attain any aſcendant, in human ſociety.

The domeſtic adminiſtration of Cromwell, though it diſcovers great abilities, was conducted without any plan either of liberty or arbitrary power; perhaps his difficult ſituation admitted of neither. His foreign enterpriſes, though full of intrepidity, were pernicious to national intereſt, and ſeem more the reſult of impetuous fury, or narrow prejudices, than of cool foreſight and deliberation. An eminent perſonage, however, he was in many reſpects, and even a ſuperior genius; but unequal and irregular in his operations. And, though not defective in any talent, except that of elocution, the abilities which in him were moſt admirable, and which moſt contributed to his marvellous ſucceſs, were the magnanimous reſolution of his enterpriſes, and his peculiar dexterity in diſcovering the characters, and practiſing on the weakneſſes, of mankind.

If we ſurvey the moral character of Cromwell with that indulgence which is due to the blindneſs and infirmities of the human ſpecies, we ſhall not be inclined to load his memory with ſuch violent reproaches as thoſe which his enemies uſually throw upon it. Amidſt the paſſions and prejudices of that period, that he ſhould prefer the parliamentary to the royal cauſe will not appear extraordinary; ſince, even at preſent, ſome men of ſenſe and knowledge are diſpoſed to think that the queſtion, with regard to the juſtice of the quarrel, may be regarded as doubtful and uncertain. The murder of the king, the moſt atrocious of all his actions, was to him covered

under a mighty cloud of republican and fanatical illuſions; and it is not impoſſible but he might believe it, as many others did, the moſt meritorious action that he could perform. His ſubſequent uſurpation was the effect of neceſſity, as well as of ambition; nor is it eaſy to ſee how the various factions could at that time have been reſtrained, without a mixture of military and arbitrary authority. The private deportment of Cromwell, as a ſon, a huſband, a father, a friend, is expoſed to no conſiderable cenſure, if it does not rather merit praiſe. And, upon the whole, his character does not appear more extraordinary and unuſual by the mixture of ſo much abſurdity with ſo much penetration, than by his tempering ſuch violent ambition and ſuch enraged fanaticiſm with ſo much regard to juſtice and humanity.

Cromwell was in the fifty-ninth year of his age when he died. He was of a robuſt frame of body, and of a manly, though not of an agreeable, aſpect. He left only two ſons, Richard and Henry; and three daughters; one married to general Fleetwood, another to lord Fauconberg, a third to lord Rich. His father died when he was young. His mother lived till after he was protector; and, contrary to her orders, he buried her with great pomp in Weſtminſter-abbey. She could not be perſuaded that his power or perſon was ever in ſafety. At every noiſe which ſhe heard ſhe exclaimed that her ſon was murdered; and was never ſatisfied that he was alive if ſhe did not receive frequent viſits from him. She was a decent woman; and, by her frugality and induſtry, had raiſed and educated a numerous family upon a ſmall fortune. She had even been obliged to ſet up a brewery at Huntingdon, which ſhe managed to good advantage. Hence Cromwell, in the invectives of that age, is often ſtigmatiſed with the name of 'the brewer.' Ludlow, by way of inſult, mentions the great acceſſion which he would receive to his royal

revenues upon his mother's death, who poſſeſſed a jointure of ſixty pounds a year upon his eſtate. She was of a good family, of the name of Stuart; remotely allied, as is by ſome ſuppoſed, to the royal family.

CHAPTER LXII.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

RICHARD ACKNOWLEDGED PROTECTOR....A PARLIAMENT....CABAL OF WALLINGFORD-HOUSE....RICHARD DEPOSED....LONG PARLIAMENT OR RUMP RESTORED....CONSPIRACY OF THE ROYALISTS.... INSURRECTION SUPPRESSED....PARLIAMENT EXPELLED....COMMITTEE OF SAFETY....FOREIGN AFFAIRS....GENERAL MONK.... MONK DECLARES FOR THE PARLIAMENT....PARLIAMENT RESTORED....MONK ENTERS LONDON, AND DECLARES FOR A FREE PARLIAMENT....SECLUDED MEMBERS RESTORED, AND LONG PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED....NEW PARLIAMENT....THE RESTORATION....MANNERS AND ARTS.

ALL the arts of Cromwell's policy had been ſo often practiſed that they began to loſe their effect; and his power, inſtead of being confirmed by time and ſucceſs, ſeemed every day to become more uncertain and precarious. His friends the moſt cloſely connected with him, and his counſellors the moſt truſted, were entering into cabals againſt his authority; and, with all his penetration into the characters of men, he could not find any miniſters on whom he could rely. Men of probity and honour, he knew, would not ſubmit to be the inſtruments of an uſurpation violent and illegal: thoſe who were free from the reſtraint of principle might betray, from intereſt, that cauſe in

which, from no better motives, they had inliſted themſelves. Even thoſe on whom he conferred any favour never deemed the recompenſe an equivalent for the ſacrifices which they made to obtain it: whoever was refuſed any demand juſtified his anger by the ſpecious colours of conſcience and of duty. Such difficulties ſurrounded the protector, that his dying at ſo critical a time is eſteemed by many the moſt fortunate circumſtance that ever attended him; and it was thought that all his courage and dexterity could not much longer have extended his uſurped adminiſtration.

RICHARD ACKNOWLEDGED PROTECTOR. 1658.

But, when that potent hand was removed which conducted the government, every one expected a ſudden diſſolution of the unwieldy and ill-jointed fabric. Richard, a young man of no experience, educated in the country, accuſtomed to a retired life, unacquainted with the officers, and unknown to them, recommended by no military exploits, endeared by no familiarities, could not long, it was thought, maintain that authority which his father had acquired by ſo many valorous achievements and ſuch ſignal ſucceſſes. And, when it was obſerved that he poſſeſſed only the virtues of private life, which in his ſituation were ſo many vices; that indolence, incapacity, irreſolution, attended his facility and good nature; the various hopes of men were excited by the expectation of ſome great event or revolution. For ſome time, however, the public was diſappointed in this opinion. The council recogniſed the ſucceſſion of Richard; Fleetwood, in whoſe favour it was ſuppoſed Cromwell had formerly made a will, renounced all claim or pretenſion to the protectorſhip; Henry, Richard's brother, who governed Ireland with popularity, enſured him the obedience of that kingdom; Monk,

whoſe authority was well eſtabliſhed in Scotland, being much attached to the family of Cromwell, immediately proclaimed the new protector; the army every where, the fleet, acknowledged his title; above ninety addreſſes, from the counties and moſt conſiderable corporations, congratulated him on his acceſſion in all the terms of dutiful allegiance; foreign miniſters were forward in paying him the uſual compliments; and Richard, whoſe moderate, unambitious character never would have led him to contend for empire, was tempted to accept of ſo rich an inheritance, which ſeemed to be tendered to him by the conſent of all mankind.

A PARLIAMENT. 1659.

It was found neceſſary to call a parliament, in order to furniſh ſupplies both for the ordinary adminiſtration, and for fulfilling thoſe engagements with foreign princes, particularly Sweden, into which the late protector had entered. In hopes of obtaining greater influence in elections, the ancient right was reſtored to all the ſmall boroughs; and the counties were allowed no more than their uſual members. The houſe of peers, or the other houſe, conſiſted of the ſame perſons that had been appointed by Oliver.

All the commons at firſt ſigned, without heſitation, an engagement not to alter the preſent government. They next proceeded to examine 'the humble petition and advice;' and, after great oppoſition and many vehement debates, it was at length, with much difficulty, carried by the court party to confirm it. An acknowledgment too of the authority of the other houſe was extorted from them; though it was reſolved not to treat this houſe of peers with any greater reſpect than they ſhould return to the commons. A declaration was alſo made, that the

eſtabliſhment of the other houſe ſhould nowiſe prejudice the right of ſuch of the ancient peers as had, from the beginning of the war, adhered to the parliament. But in all theſe proceedings the oppoſition among the commons was ſo conſiderable, and the debates were ſo much prolonged, that all buſineſs was retarded, and great alarm given to the partiſans of the young protector.

But there was another quarter from which greater dangers were juſtly apprehended. The moſt conſiderable officers of the army, and even Fleetwood, brother-in-law to the protector, were entering into cabals againſt him. No character in human ſociety is more dangerous than that of the fanatic; becauſe, if attended with weak judgment, he is expoſed to the ſuggeſtions of others; if ſupported by more diſcernment, he is entirely governed by his own illuſions, which ſanctify his moſt ſelfiſh views and paſſions. Fleetwood was of the former ſpecies; and, as he was extremely addicted to a republic, and even to the fifth monarchy or dominion of the ſaints, it was eaſy for thoſe, who had inſinuated themſelves into his confidence, to inſtil diſguſts againſt the dignity of protector. The whole republican party in the army, which was ſtill conſiderable, Fitz, Maſon, Moſs, Farley, united themſelves to that general. The officers too of the ſame party, whom Cromwell had diſcarded, Overton, Ludlow, Rich, Okey, Alured, began to appear, and to recover that authority which had been only for a time ſuſpended. A party likewiſe, who found themſelves eclipſed in Richard's favour, Sydenham, Kelſey, Berry, Haines, joined the cabal of the others. Even Deſborow, the protector's uncle, lent his authority to that faction. But, above all, the intrigues of Lambert, who was now rouſed from his retreat, inflamed all thoſe dangerous humours, and threatened the nation with ſome great convulſion. The diſcontented officers eſtabliſhed their meetings in Fleetwood's apartments;

and, becauſe he dwelt in Wallingford-houſe, the party received a denomination from that place.

CABAL OF WALLINGFORD-HOUSE.

RICHARD, who poſſeſſed neither reſolution nor penetration, was prevailed on to give an unguarded conſent for calling a general council of officers, who might make him propoſals, as they pretended, for the good of the army. No ſooner were they aſſembled than they voted a remonſtrance. They there lamented that 'the good old cauſe,' as they termed it, that is, the cauſe for which they had engaged againſt the late king, was entirely neglected; and they propoſed, as a remedy, that the whole military power ſhould be intruſted to ſome perſon in whom they might all confide. The city militia, influenced by two aldermen, Tichburn and Ireton, expreſſed the ſame reſolution of adhering to the good old cauſe.

The protector was juſtly alarmed at thoſe movements among the officers. The perſons in whom he chiefly confided were all of them, excepting Broghill, men of civil characters and profeſſions; Fiennes, Thurloe, Whitlocke, Wolſeley; who could only aſſiſt him with their advice and opinion. He poſſeſſed none of thoſe arts which were proper to gain an enthuſiaſtic army. Murmurs being thrown out againſt ſome promotions which he had made, 'Would you have me,' ſaid he, 'prefer none but the godly? Here is Dick Ingoldſby,' continued he, 'who can neither pray nor preach;' yet will I truſt him before ye all.' This imprudence gave great offence to the pretended ſaints. The other qualities of the protector were correſpondent to theſe ſentiments: he was of a gentle, humane, and generous diſpoſition. Some of his party offering to put an end to thoſe intrigues by the death of Lambert, he declared that he

would not purchaſe power or dominion by ſuch ſanguinary meaſures.

The parliament was no leſs alarmed at the military cabals. They voted that there ſhould be no meeting or general council of officers, except with the protector's conſent, or by his orders. This vote brought affairs immediately to a rupture. The officers haſtened to Richard, and demanded of him the diſſolution of the parliament. Deſborow, a man of a clowniſh and brutal nature, threatened him, if he ſhould refuſe compliance. The protector wanted the reſolution to deny, and poſſeſſed little ability to reſiſt. The parliament was diſſolved; and by the ſame act the protector was, by every one, conſidered as effectually dethroned. Soon after he ſigned his demiſſion in form.

RICHARD DEPOSED.

HENRY, the deputy of Ireland, was endowed with the ſame moderate diſpoſition as Richard; but, as he poſſeſſed more vigour and capacity, it was apprehended that he might make reſiſtance. His popularity in Ireland was great; and even his perſonal authority, notwithſtanding his youth, was conſiderable. Had his ambition been very eager, he had, no doubt, been able to create diſturbance; but, being threatened by ſir Hardreſs Waller, colonel John Jones, and other officers, he very quietly reſigned his command, and retired to England. He had once entertained thoughts, which he had not reſolution to execute, of proclaiming the king in Dublin.[t]

Thus fell ſuddenly, and from an enormous height, but, by a rare fortune, without any hurt or injury, the family of the Cromwells. Richard continued to poſſeſs an eſtate which was moderate, and burdened too with a large debt, which he had contracted for the interment of his father. After the reſtoration,

though he remained unmoleſted, he thought proper to travel for ſome years; and at Pezenas in Languedoc he was introduced, under a borrowed name, to the prince of Conti. That prince, talking of Engliſh affairs, broke out into admiration of Cromwell's courage and capacity. 'But, as for that poor pitiful fellow, Richard,' ſaid he, 'what has become of him? How could he be ſuch a blockhead as to reap no greater benefit from all his father's crimes and ſucceſſes?' Richard extended his peaceful and quiet life to an extreme old age, and died not till the latter end of queen Anne's reign. His ſocial virtues, more valuable than the greateſt capacity, met with a recompenſe more precious than noiſy fame, and more ſuitable, contentment and tranquillity.

The council of officers, now poſſeſſed of ſupreme authority, deliberated what form of government they ſhould eſtabliſh. Many of them ſeemed inclined to exerciſe the power of the ſword in the moſt open manner; but, as it was apprehended that the people would with great difficulty be induced to pay taxes levied by arbitrary will and pleaſure, it was agreed to preſerve the ſhadow of civil adminiſtration, and to revive the long parliament, which had been expelled by Cromwell. That aſſembly could not be diſſolved, it was aſſerted, but by their own conſent; and violence had interrupted, but was not able to deſtroy, their right to government. The officers alſo expected that, as theſe members had ſufficiently felt their own weakneſs, they would be contented to act in ſubordination to the military commanders, and would thenceforth allow all the authority to remain where the power was ſo viſibly veſted.

The officers applied to Lenthal, the ſpeaker, and propoſed to him that the parliament ſhould reſume their ſeats. Lenthal was of a low, timid ſpirit; and, being uncertain what iſſue might attend theſe meaſures, was deſirous of evading the propoſal.

He replied that he could by no means comply with the deſire of the officers, being engaged in a buſineſs of far greater importance to himſelf, which he could not omit on any account, becauſe it concerned the ſalvation of his own ſoul. The officers preſſed him to tell what it might be. He was preparing, he ſaid, to participate of the Lord's ſupper, which he reſolved to take next ſabbath. They inſiſted that mercy was preferable to ſacrifice, and that he could not better prepare himſelf for that great duty than by contributing to the public ſervice. All their remonſtrances had no effect. However, on the appointed day the ſpeaker, being informed that a quorum of the houſe was likely to meet, thought proper, notwithſtanding the ſalvation of his ſoul, as Ludlow obſerves, to join them; and the houſe immediately proceeded upon buſineſs. The ſecluded members attempted, but in vain, to reſume their ſeats among them.

LONG PARLIAMENT OR RUMP RESTORED.

THE numbers of this parliament were ſmall, little exceeding ſeventy members: their authority in the nation, ever ſince they had been purged by the army, was extremely diminiſhed; and, after their expulſion, had been totally annihilated: but, being all of them men of violent ambition, ſome of them men of experience and capacity, they were reſolved, ſince they enjoyed the title of the ſupreme authority, and obſerved that ſome appearance of a parliament was requiſite for the purpoſes of the army, not to act a ſubordinate part to thoſe who acknowledged themſelves their ſervants. They choſe a council, in which they took care that the officers of Wallingford-houſe ſhould not be the majority; they appointed Fleetwood lieutenant-general, but inſerted in his commiſſion that it ſhould only continue during the pleaſure of the houſe; they choſe ſeven perſons, who ſhould

nominate to ſuch commands as became vacant; and they voted that all commiſſions ſhould be received from the ſpeaker, and be aſſigned by him in the name of the houſe. Theſe precautions, the tendency of which was viſible, gave great diſguſt to the general officers; and their diſcontent would immediately have broken out into ſome reſolution fatal to the parliament, had it not been checked by the apprehenſions of danger from the common enemy.

The bulk of the nation conſiſted of royaliſts and preſbyterians; and to both theſe parties the dominion of the pretended parliament had ever been to the laſt degree odious. When that aſſembly was expelled by Cromwell contempt had ſucceeded to hatred; and no reſerve had been uſed in expreſſing the utmoſt deriſion againſt the impotent ambition of theſe uſurpers. Seeing them reinſtated in authority, all orders of men felt the higheſt indignation, together with apprehenſions leſt ſuch tyrannical rulers ſhould exert their power by taking vengeance upon their enemies, who had ſo openly inſulted them. A ſecret reconciliation, therefore, was made between the rival parties; and it was agreed that, burying former enmities in oblivion, all efforts ſhould be uſed for the overthrow of the rump; ſo they called the parliament, in alluſion to that part of the animal body. The preſbyterians, ſenſible, from experience, that their paſſion for liberty, however laudable, had carried them into unwarrantable exceſſes, were willing to lay aſide ancient jealouſies, and at all hazards to reſtore the royal family. The nobility, the gentry, bent their paſſionate endeavours to the ſame enterpriſe, by which alone they could be redeemed from ſlavery. And no man was ſo remote from party, ſo indifferent to public good, as not to feel the moſt ardent wiſhes for the diſſolution of that tyranny which, whether the civil or the military part of it were conſidered, appeared equally oppreſſive and ruinous to the nation.

CONSPIRACY OF THE ROYALISTS.

MORDAUNT, who had ſo narrowly eſcaped on his trial before the high court of juſtice, ſeemed rather animated than daunted with paſt danger; and, having by his reſolute behaviour obtained the higheſt confidence of the royal party, he was now become the centre of all their conſpiracies. In many counties a reſolution was taken to riſe in arms. Lord Willoughby of Parham and ſir Horatio Townſhend undertook to ſecure Lynne; general Maſſey engaged to ſeize Gloceſter; lord Newport, Littleton, and other gentlemen, conſpired to take poſſeſſion of Shrewſbury; ſir George Booth of Cheſter; ſir Thomas Middleton of North Wales; Arundel, Pollar, Granville, Trelawney, of Plymouth and Exeter. A day was appointed for the execution of all theſe enterpriſes. And the king, attended by the duke of York, had ſecretly arrived at Calais, with a reſolution of putting himſelf at the head of his loyal ſubjects. The French court had promiſed to ſupply him with a ſmall body of forces, in order to countenance the inſurrections of the Engliſh.

This combination was diſconcerted by the infidelity of ſir Richard Willis. That traitor continued with the parliament the ſame correſpondence which he had begun with Cromwell. He had engaged to reveal all conſpiracies, ſo far as to deſtroy their effect; but reſerved to himſelf, if he pleaſed, the power of concealing the conſpirators. He took care never to name any of the old, genuine cavaliers, who had zealouſly adhered, and were reſolved ſtill to adhere, to the royal cauſe in every fortune. Theſe men he eſteemed; theſe he even loved. He betrayed only the new converts among the preſbyterians, or ſuch lukewarm royaliſts as, diſcouraged with their diſappointments, were reſolved to expoſe themſelves to no more hazards. A lively proof

how impoſſible it is, even for the moſt corrupted minds, to diveſt themſelves of all regard to morality and ſocial duty!

Many of the conſpirators in the different counties were thrown into priſon; others, aſtoniſhed at ſuch ſymptoms of ſecret treachery, left their houſes, or remained quiet. The moſt tempeſtuous weather prevailed during the whole time appointed for the rendezvouſes; inſomuch that ſome found it impoſſible to join their friends, and others were diſmayed with fear and ſuperſtition at an incident ſo unuſual during the ſummer ſeaſon. Of all the projects, the only one which took effect was that of ſir George Booth for the ſeizing of Cheſter. The earl of Derby, lord Herbert of Cherbury, Mr. Lee, colonel Morgan, entered into this enterpriſe. Sir William Middleton joined Booth with ſome troops from North Wales; and the malcontents were powerful enough to ſubdue all in that neighbourhood who ventured to oppoſe them. In their declaration they made no mention of the king; they only demanded a free and full parliament.

INSURRECTION SUPPRESSED.

THE parliament was juſtly alarmed. How combuſtible the materials they well knew; and the fire was now fallen among them. Booth was of a family eminently preſbyterian; and his conjunction with the royaliſts they regarded as a dangerous ſymptom. They had many officers whoſe fidelity they could more depend on than that of Lambert; but there was no one in whoſe vigilance and capacity they repoſed ſuch confidence. They commiſſioned him to ſuppreſs the rebels: he made incredible haſte. Booth imprudently ventured himſelf out of the walls of Cheſter, and expoſed, in the open field, his raw troops againſt theſe hardy veterans. He was ſoon routed and taken priſoner; his whole army was diſperſed; and the parliament had no farther

occupation than to fill all the jails with their open or ſecret enemies. Deſigns were even entertained of tranſporting the loyal families to Barbadoes, Jamaica, and the other colonies, leſt they ſhould propagate in England children of the ſame malignant affections with themſelves.

This ſucceſs haſtened the ruin of the parliament. Lambert, at the head of a body of troops, was no leſs dangerous to them than Booth. A thouſand pounds, which they ſent him to buy a jewel, were employed by him in liberalities to his officers. At his inſtigation they drew up a petition, and tranſmitted it to Fleetwood, a weak man, and an honeſt, if ſincerity in folly deſerve that honourable name. The import of this petition was, that Fleetwood ſhould be made commander in chief, Lambert major-general, Deſborow lieutenant-general of the horſe, Monk major-general of the foot. To which a demand was added that no officer ſhould be diſmiſſed from his command but by a court-martial.

The parliament, alarmed at the danger, immediately caſhiered Lambert, Deſborow, Berry, Clarke, Barrow, Kelſey, Cobbet. Sir Arthur Hazelrig propoſed the impeachment of Lambert for high treaſon. Fleetwood's commiſſion was vacated, and the command of the army was veſted in ſeven perſons, of whom that general was one. The parliament voted that they would have no more general officers; and they declared it high treaſon to levy any money without conſent of parliament.

PARLIAMENT EXPELLED.

But theſe votes were feeble weapons in oppoſition to the ſwords of the ſoldiery. Lambert drew ſome troops together, in order to decide the controverſy. Okey, who was leading his regiment to the aſſiſtance of the parliament, was deſerted by them.

Morley and Mois brought their regiments into Palace-yard, reſolute to oppoſe the violence of Lambert. But that artful general knew an eaſy way of diſappointing them: he placed his ſoldiers in the ſtreets which lead to Weſtminſter-hall; when the ſpeaker came in his coach, he ordered the horſes to be turned, and very civilly conducted him home: the other members were in like manner intercepted; and the two regiments in Palace-yard, obſerving that they were expoſed to deriſion, peaceably retired to their quarters. A little before this bold enterpriſe a ſolemn faſt had been kept by the army; and it is remarked that this ceremony was the uſual prelude to every ſignal violence which they committed.

COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

The officers found themſelves again inveſted with ſupreme authority, of which they intended for ever to retain the ſubſtance, however they might beſtow on others the empty ſhadow or appearance. They elected a committee of twenty-three perſons, of whom ſeven were officers. Theſe they pretended to inveſt with ſovereign authority; and they called them a Committee of Safety. They ſpoke every where of ſummoning a parliament choſen by the people; but they really took ſome ſteps towards aſſembling a military parliament, compoſed of officers elected from every regiment in the ſervice.[n] Throughout the three kingdoms there prevailed nothing but the melancholy fears, to the nobility and gentry, of a bloody maſſacre and extermination; to the reſt of the people of perpetual ſervitude beneath thoſe ſanctified robbers, whoſe union and whoſe diviſions would be equally deſtructive, and who, under pretence of ſuperior illuminations, would ſoon extirpate, if poſſible, all private morality, as they had already done all public law and juſtice, from the Britiſh dominions.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

DURING the time that England continued in this diſtracted condition the other kingdoms of Europe were haſtening towards a compoſure of thoſe differences by which they had ſo long been agitated. The parliament, while it preſerved authority, inſtead of following the imprudent politics of Cromwell, and lending aſſiſtance to the conquering Swede, embraced the maxims of the Dutch commonwealth, and reſolved, in conjunction with that ſtate, to mediate, by force and accommodation, between the northern crowns. Montague was ſent with a ſquadron to the Baltic, and carried with him, as ambaſſador, Algernon Sidney, the celebrated republican. Sidney found the Swediſh monarch employed in the ſiege of Copenhagen, the capital of his enemy; and was highly pleaſed that, with a Roman arrogance, he could check the progreſs of royal victories, and diſplay in ſo ſignal a manner the ſuperiority of freedom above tyranny. With the higheſt indignation the ambitious prince was obliged to ſubmit to the imperious mediation of the two commonwealths. 'It is cruel,' ſaid he, 'that laws ſhould be preſcribed me by parricides and pedlers.' But his whole army was encloſed in an iſland, and might be ſtarved by the combined ſquadrons of England and Holland. He was obliged, therefore, to quit his prey when he had ſo nearly gotten poſſeſſion of it; and, having agreed to a pacification with Denmark, he retired into his own country, where he ſoon after died.

The wars between France and Spain were alſo concluded by the treaty of the Pyrenees. Theſe animoſities had long been carried on between the rival ſtates, even while governed by a ſiſter and brother, who cordially loved and eſteemed each other. But politics, which had ſo long prevailed over theſe friendly

affections, now at laſt yielded to their influence; and never was the triumph more full and complete. The Spaniſh Low Countries, if not every part of that monarchy, lay almoſt entirely at the mercy of its enemy. Broken armies, diſordered finances, ſlow and irreſolute counſels; by theſe reſources alone were the diſperſed provinces of Spain defended againſt the vigorous power of France. But the queen regent, anxious for the fate of her brother, employed her authority with the cardinal to ſtop the progreſs of the French conqueſts, and put an end to a quarrel, which, being commenced by ambition, and attended with victory, was at laſt concluded with moderation. The young monarch of France, though aſpiring and warlike in his character, was at this time entirely occupied in the pleaſures of love and gallantry, and had paſſively reſigned the reins of empire into the hands of his politic miniſter. And he remained an unconcerned ſpectator; while an opportunity for conqueſt was parted with, which he never was able, during the whole courſe of his active reign, fully to retrieve.

The miniſters of the two crowns, Mazarine and don Louis de Haro, met at the foot of the Pyrenees, in the iſle of Pheaſants, a place which was ſuppoſed to belong to neither kingdom. The negociation being brought to an iſſue by frequent conferences between the miniſters, the monarchs themſelves agreed to a congreſs; and theſe two ſplendid courts appeared in their full luſtre amidſt thoſe ſavage mountains. Philip brought his daughter, Mary Thereſe, along with him; and, giving her in marriage to his nephew Louis, endeavoured to cement by this new tie the incompatible intereſts of the two monarchies. The French king made a ſolemn renunciation of every ſucceſſion which might accrue to him in right of his conſort; a vain formality, too weak to reſtrain the ungoverned ambition of princes.

The affairs of England were in ſo great diſorder that it was not poſſible to comprehend that kingdom in the treaty, or adjuſt meaſures with a power which was in ſuch inceſſant fluctuation. The king, reduced to deſpair by the failure of all enterpriſes for his reſtoration, was reſolved to try the weak reſource of foreign ſuccours; and he went to the Pyrenees at the time when the two miniſters were in the midſt of their negociations. Don Louis received him with that generous civility peculiar to his nation; and expreſſed great inclination, had the low condition of Spain allowed him, to give aſſiſtance to the diſtreſſed monarch. The cautious Mazarine, pleading the alliance of France with the Engliſh commonwealth, refuſed even to ſee him; and, though the king offered to marry the cardinal's niece,* he could, for the preſent, obtain nothing but empty profeſſions of reſpect and proteſtations of ſervices. The condition of that monarch, to all the world, ſeemed totally deſperate. His friends had been baffled in every attempt for his ſervice; the ſcaffold had often ſtreamed with the blood of the more active royaliſts; the ſpirits of many were broken with tedious impriſonments; the eſtates of all were burdened by the fines and confiſcations which had been levied upon them; no one durſt openly avow himſelf of that party; and ſo ſmall did their number ſeem to a ſuperficial view, that, even ſhould the nation recover its liberty, which was deemed nowiſe probable, it was judged uncertain what form of government it would embrace. But, amidſt all theſe gloomy proſpects, fortune, by a ſurpriſing revolution, was now paving the way for the king to mount, in peace and triumph, the throne of his anceſtors. It was by the prudence and loyalty of general Monk that this happy change was at laſt accompliſhed.

GENERAL MONK.

GEORGE MONK, to whom the fate was reſerved of re-eſtabliſhing monarchy, and finiſhing the bloody diſſenſions of three kingdoms, was the ſecond ſon of a family in Devonſhire, ancient and honourable, but lately, from too great hoſpitality and expenſe, ſomewhat fallen to decay. He betook himſelf in early youth to the profeſſion of arms, and was engaged in the unfortunate expeditions to Cadiz and the iſle of Rhe. After England had concluded peace with all her neighbours he ſought military experience in the Low Countries, the great ſchool of war to all the European nations; and he roſe to the command of a company under lord Goring. This company conſiſted of two hundred men, of whom a hundred were volunteers, often men of family and fortune, ſometimes noblemen who lived upon their own income in a ſplendid manner. Such a military turn at that time prevailed among the Engliſh!

When the ſound of war was firſt heard in this iſland Monk returned to England, partly deſirous of promotion in his native country, partly diſguſted with ſome ill uſage from the States, of which he found reaſon to complain. Upon the Scottiſh pacification he was employed by the earl of Leiceſter againſt the Iriſh rebels; and, having obtained a regiment, was ſoon taken notice of for his military ſkill, and for his calm and deliberate valour. Without oſtentation, expenſe, or careſſes, merely by his humane and equal temper, he gained the good-will of the ſoldiery; who, with a mixture of familiarity and affection, uſually called him 'honeſt George Monk;' an honourable appellation, which they ſtill continued to him even during his greateſt elevation. He was remarkable for his moderation in party; and, while all around him were inflamed into rage againſt the oppoſite faction,

he fell under ſuſpicion from the candour and tranquillity of his behaviour. When the Iriſh army was called over into England ſurmiſes of this kind had been ſo far credited, that he had even been ſuſpended from his command, and ordered to Oxford, that he might anſwer the charge laid againſt him. His eſtabliſhed character for truth and ſincerity here ſtood him in great ſtead; and, upon his earneſt proteſtations and declarations, he was ſoon reſtored to his regiment, which he joined at the ſiege of Nantwich. The day after his arrival Fairfax attacked and defeated the royaliſts, commanded by Biron, and took colonel Monk priſoner. He was ſent to the tower, where he endured, about two years, all the rigours of poverty and confinement. The king, however, was ſo mindful as to ſend him, notwithſtanding his own difficulties, a preſent of one hundred guineas; but it was not till after the royaliſts were totally ſubdued that he recovered his liberty. Monk, however diſtreſſed, had always refuſed the moſt inviting offers from the parliament: but Cromwell, ſenſible of his merit, having ſolicited him to engage in the wars againſt the Iriſh, who were conſidered as rebels both by king and parliament, he was not unwilling to repair his broken fortunes by accepting a command which, he flattered himſelf, was reconcilable to the ſtricteſt principles of honour. Having once engaged with the parliament, he was obliged to obey orders; and found himſelf neceſſitated to fight, both againſt the marquis of Ormond in Ireland, and againſt the king himſelf in Scotland. Upon the reduction of the latter kingdom Monk was left with the ſupreme command; and, by the equality and juſtice of his adminiſtration, he was able to give contentment to that reſtleſs people, now reduced to ſubjection by a nation whom they hated. No leſs acceptable was his authority to the officers and ſoldiers; and, foreſeeing that the good-will of the army under his command might ſome time be of great ſervice

to him, he had, with much care and ſucceſs, cultivated their friendſhip.

MONK DECLARES FOR THE PARLIAMENT.

THE connexions which he had formed with Cromwell, his benefactor, preſerved him faithful to Richard, who had been enjoined by his father to follow in every thing the directions of general Monk. When the long parliament was reſtored, Monk, who was not prepared for oppoſition, acknowledged their authority, and was continued in his command, from which it would not have been ſafe to attempt diſlodging him. After the army had expelled the parliament he proteſted againſt the violence, and reſolved, as he pretended, to vindicate their invaded privileges. Deeper deſigns, either in the king's favour or his own, were from the beginning ſuſpected to be the motive of his actions.

A rivalſhip had long ſubſiſted between him and Lambert; and every body ſaw the reaſon why he oppoſed the elevation of that ambitious general, by whoſe ſucceſs his own authority he knew would ſoon be ſubverted. But little friendſhip had ever ſubſiſted between him and the parliamentary leaders; and it ſeemed nowiſe probable that he intended to employ his induſtry, and ſpend his blood, for the advancement of one enemy above another. How early he entertained deſigns for the king's reſtoration we know not with certainty: it is likely that, as ſoon as Richard was depoſed, he foreſaw that, without ſuch an expedient, it would be impoſſible ever to bring the nation to a regular ſettlement. His elder and younger brothers were devoted to the royal cauſe; the Granvilles, his near relations, and all the reſt of his kindred, were in the ſame intereſts; he himſelf was intoxicated with no fumes of enthuſiaſm, and had main-

tained no connexions with any of the fanatical tribe. His early engagements had been with the king, and he had left that ſervice without receiving any diſguſt from the royal family. Since he had inliſted himſelf with the oppoſite party he had been guilty of no violence, or rigour, which might render him obnoxious. His return, therefore, to loyalty was eaſy and open; and nothing could be ſuppoſed to counterbalance his natural propenſity to that meaſure, except the views of his own elevation, and the proſpect of uſurping the ſame grandeur and authority which had been aſſumed by Cromwell. But from ſuch exorbitant, if not impoſſible, projects the natural tranquillity and moderation of his temper, the calmneſs and ſolidity of his genius, not to mention his age, now upon the decline, ſeem to have ſet him at a diſtance. Cromwell himſelf, he always aſſerted,[x] could not long have maintained his uſurpation; and any other perſon, even equal to him in genius, it was obvious, would now find it more difficult to practiſe arts of which every one, from experience, was ſufficiently aware. It is more agreeable, therefore, to reaſon as well as candour, to ſuppoſe that Monk, as ſoon as he put himſelf in motion, had entertained views of effecting the king's reſtoration; nor ought any objections, derived from his profound ſilence even to Charles himſelf, be regarded as conſiderable. His temper was naturally reſerved; his circumſtances required diſſimulation; the king, he knew, was ſurrounded with ſpies and traitors; and, upon the whole, it ſeems hard to interpret that conduct, which ought to exalt our idea of his prudence, as a diſparagement of his probity.

Sir John Granville, hoping that the general would engage in the king's ſervice, ſent into Scotland his younger brother, a clergyman, Dr. Monk, who carried him a letter and invitation from the king. When the doctor arrived he found that his brother was then holding a council of officers, and was not to be

ſeen for ſome hours. In the mean time he was received and entertained by Price, the general's chaplain, a man of probity, as well as a partiſan of the king's. The doctor, having an entire confidence in the chaplain, talked very freely to him about the object of his journey, and engaged him, if there ſhould be occaſion, to ſecond his applications. At laſt the general arrives; the brothers embrace; and, after ſome preliminary converſation, the doctor opens his buſineſs. Monk interrupted him, to know whether he had ever before to any body mentioned the ſubject. 'To no body,' replied his brother, 'but to Price, whom I know to be entirely in your confidence.' The general, altering his countenance, turned the diſcourſe; and would enter into no farther confidence with him, but ſent him away with the firſt opportunity. He would not truſt his own brother the moment he knew that he had diſcloſed the ſecret, though to a man whom he himſelf could have truſted.[y]

His conduct in all other particulars was full of the ſame reſerve and prudence; and no leſs was requiſite for effecting the difficult work which he had undertaken. All the officers in his army, of whom he entertained any ſuſpicion, he immediately caſhiered. Cobbet, who had been ſent by the committee of ſafety, under pretence of communicating their reſolutions to Monk, but really with a view of debauching his army, he committed to cuſtody: he drew together the ſeveral ſcattered regiments: he ſummoned an aſſembly, ſomewhat reſembling a convention of ſtates; and, having communicated to them his reſolution of marching into England, he received a ſeaſonable, though no great, ſupply of money.

Hearing that Lambert was advancing northward with his army, Monk ſent Clobery and two other commiſſioners to London, with large profeſſions of his inclination to peace, and with offers of terms for an accommodation. His chief aim was to gain time,

and relax the preparations of his enemies. The committee of ſafety fell into the ſnare. A treaty was ſigned by Monk's commiſſioners; but he refuſed to ratify it, and complained that they had exceeded their powers. He deſired, however, to enter into a new negociation at Newcaſtle. The committee willingly accepted this fallacious offer.

Meanwhile theſe military ſovereigns found themſelves ſurrounded on all hands with inextricable difficulties. The nation had fallen into total anarchy; and, by refuſing the payment of all taxes, reduced the army to the greateſt neceſſities. While Lambert's forces were aſſembling at Newcaſtle Hazelrig and Morley took poſſeſſion of Portſmouth, and declared for the parliament. A party, ſent to ſuppreſs them, was perſuaded by their commander to join in the ſame declaration. The city apprentices roſe in a tumult, and demanded a free parliament. Though they were ſuppreſſed by colonel Hewſon, a man who from the profeſſion of a cobler had riſen to a high rank in the army, the city ſtill diſcovered ſymptoms of the moſt dangerous diſcontent. It even eſtabliſhed a kind of ſeparate government, and aſſumed the ſupreme authority within itſelf. Admiral Lawſon with his ſquadron came into the river, and declared for the parliament. Hazelrig and Morley, hearing of this important event, left Portſmouth, and advanced towards London. The regiments near that city being ſolicited by their old officers, who had been caſhiered by the committee of ſafety, revolted again to the parliament. Deſborow's regiment, being ſent by Lambert to ſupport his friends, no ſooner arrived at St. Albans than it declared for the ſame aſſembly.

Fleetwood's hand was found too weak and unſtable to ſupport this ill-founded fabric, which every where around him was falling into ruins. When he received intelligence of any murmurs among the ſoldiers he would proſtrate himſelf in prayer, and

could hardly be prevailed with to join the troops. Even when among them he would, in the midſt of any diſcourſe, invite them all to prayer, and put himſelf on his knees before them. If any of his friends exhorted him to more vigour, they could get no other anſwer than that God had ſpitten in his face, and would not hear him. Men now ceaſed to wonder why Lambert had promoted him to the office of general, and had contented himſelf with the ſecond command in the army.

PARLIAMENT RESTORED.

LENTHAL, the ſpeaker, being invited by the officers, again aſſumed authority, and ſummoned together the parliament, which twice before had been expelled with ſo much reproach and ignominy. As ſoon as aſſembled they repealed their act againſt the payment of exciſe and cuſtoms; they appointed commiſſioners for aſſigning quarters to the army; and, without taking any notice of Lambert, they ſent orders to the forces under his command immediately to repair to thoſe quarters which were appointed them.

Lambert was now in a very diſconſolate condition. Monk, he ſaw, had paſſed the Tweed at Coldſtream, and was advancing upon him. His own ſoldiers deſerted him in great multitudes, and joined the enemy. Lord Fairfax too, he heard, had raiſed forces behind him, and had poſſeſſed himſelf of York without declaring his purpoſe. The laſt orders of the parliament ſo entirely ſtripped him of his army, that there remained not with him above a hundred horſe; all the reſt went to their quarters with quietneſs and reſignation; and he himſelf was, ſome time after, arreſted and committed to the tower. The other officers, who had formerly been caſhiered by the parliament, and who had reſumed their commands, that they might ſubdue that aſ-

ſembly, were again caſhiered and confined to their houſes. Sir Harry Vane and ſome members, who had concurred with the committee of ſafety, were ordered into a like confinement. And the parliament now ſeemed to be again poſſeſſed of more abſolute authority than ever, and to be without any danger of oppoſition or control.

The republican party was at this time guided by two men, Hazelrig and Vane, who were of oppoſite characters, and mortally hated each other. Hazelrig, who poſſeſſed greater authority in the parliament, was haughty, imperious, precipitate, vainglorious; without civility, without prudence; qualified only by his noiſy, pertinacious obſtinacy to acquire an aſcendant in public aſſemblies. Vane was noted, in all civil tranſactions, for temper, inſinuation, addreſs, and a profound judgment; in all religious ſpeculations for folly and extravagance. He was a perfect enthuſiaſt; and, fancying that he was certainly favoured with inſpiration, he deemed himſelf, to ſpeak in the language of the times, to be a man above ordinances, and, by reaſon of his perfection, to be unlimited and unreſtrained by any rules which govern inferior mortals. Theſe whimſies, mingling with pride, had ſo corrupted his excellent underſtanding, that ſometimes he thought himſelf the perſon deputed to reign on earth for a thouſand years over the whole congregation of the faithful.*

Monk, though informed of the reſtoration of the parliament, from whom he received no orders, ſtill advanced with his army, which was near ſix thouſand men: the ſcattered forces in England were above five times more numerous. Fairfax, who had reſolved to declare for the king, not being able to make the general open his intentions, retired to his own houſe in Yorkſhire. In all counties through which Monk paſſed the prime gentry flocked to him with addreſſes, expreſſing their earneſt deſire that he would be inſtrumental in reſtoring the nation to

peace and tranquillity, and to the enjoyment of thoſe liberties which by law were their birthright, but of which, during ſo many years, they had been fatally bereaved; and that, in order to this ſalutary purpoſe, he would prevail, either for the reſtoring of thoſe members who had been ſecluded before the king's death, or for the election of a new parliament, who might legally, and by general conſent, again govern the nation. Though Monk pretended not to favour theſe addreſſes, that ray of hope, which the knowledge of his character and ſituation afforded, mightily animated all men. The tyranny and the anarchy, which now equally oppreſſed the kingdom; the experience of paſt diſtractions, the dread of future convulſions, the indignation againſt military uſurpation, againſt ſanctified hypocriſy; all theſe motives had united every party, except the moſt deſperate, into ardent wiſhes for the king's reſtoration, the only remedy for all theſe fatal evils.

Scot and Robinſon were ſent as deputies by the parliament, under pretence of congratulating the general, but in reality to ſerve as ſpies upon him. The city diſpatched four of their principal citizens to perform like compliments; and at the ſame time to confirm the general in his inclination to a free parliament, the object of all men's prayers and endeavours. The authority of Monk could ſcarcely ſecure the parliamentary deputies from thoſe inſults, which the general hatred and contempt towards their maſters drew from men of every rank and denomination.

MONK ENTERS LONDON. 1660.

Monk continued his march with few interruptions till he reached St. Albans. He there ſent a meſſage to the parliament, deſiring them to remove from London thoſe regiments which, though

they now profeſſed to return to their duty, had ſo lately offered violence to that aſſembly. This meſſage was unexpected, and exceedingly perplexed the houſe. Their fate, they found, muſt ſtill depend on a mercenary army; and they were as diſtant as ever from their imaginary ſovereignty; however they found it neceſſary to comply. The ſoldiers made more difficulty; a mutiny aroſe among them. One regiment in particular, quartered in Somerſet-houſe, expreſsly refuſed to yield their place to the northern army. But thoſe officers, who would gladly on ſuch an occaſion have inflamed the quarrel, were abſent or in confinement; and, for want of leaders, the ſoldiers were at laſt, with great reluctance, obliged to ſubmit. Monk with his army took quarters in Weſtminſter.

The general was introduced to the houſe; and thanks were given him by Lenthal for the eminent ſervices which he had done his country. Monk was a prudent, not an eloquent, ſpeaker. He told the houſe that the ſervices which he had been enabled to perform were no more than his duty, and merited not ſuch praiſes as thoſe with which they were pleaſed to honour him: that among many perſons of greater worth, who bore their commiſſion, he had been employed as the inſtrument of providence for effecting their reſtoration; but he conſidered this ſervice as a ſtep only to more important ſervices, which it was their part to render to the nation: that while on his march he obſerved all ranks of men, in all places, to be in earneſt expectation of a ſettlement, after the violent convulſions to which they had been expoſed; and to have no proſpect of that bleſſing but from the diſſolution of the preſent parliament, and from the ſummoning of a new one, free and full, who, meeting without oaths or engagements, might finally give contentment to the nation: that applications had been made to him for that purpoſe; but that he, ſenſible of his duty, had ſtill told the peti-

tioners that the parliament itſelf, which was now free, and would ſoon be full, was the beſt judge of all theſe meaſures, and that the whole community ought to acquieſce in their determination: that, though he expreſſed himſelf in this manner to the people, he muſt now freely inform the houſe that, the fewer engagements were exacted, the more comprehenſive would their plan prove, and the more ſatisfaction would it give to the nation; and that it was ſufficient for public ſecurity if the fanatical party and the royaliſts were excluded, ſince the principles of theſe factions were deſtructive either of government or of liberty.

This ſpeech, containing matter which was both agreeable and diſagreeable to the houſe as well as to the nation, ſtill kept every one in ſuſpenſe, and upheld that uncertainty in which it ſeemed the general's intereſt to retain the public. But it was impoſſible for the kingdom to remain long in this doubtful ſituation: the people, as well as the parliament, puſhed matters to a deciſion. During the late convulſions the payment of taxes had been interrupted; and, though the parliament, upon their aſſembling, renewed the ordinances for impoſitions, yet ſo little reverence did the people pay to thoſe legiſlators, that they gave very ſlow and unwilling obedience to their commands. The common council of London flatly refuſed to ſubmit to an aſſeſſment required of them; and declared that, till a free and lawful parliament impoſed taxes, they never ſhould deem it their duty to make any payment. This reſolution, if yielded to, would immediately have put an end to the dominion of the parliament; they were determined, therefore, upon this occaſion to make at once a full experiment of their own power and of their general's obedience.

Monk received orders to march into the city; to ſeize twelve perſons, the moſt obnoxious to the parliament; to remove the

poſts and chains from all the ſtreets; and to take down and break the portculliſes and gates of the city: and very few hours were allowed him to deliberate upon the execution of theſe violent orders. To the great ſurpriſe and conſternation of all men, Monk prepared himſelf for obedience. Neglecting the entreaties of his friends, the remonſtrances of his officers, the cries of the people, he entered the city in a military manner; he apprehended as many as he could of the proſcribed perſons, whom he ſent to the tower; with all the circumſtances of contempt he broke the gates and portculliſes; and, having expoſed the city to the ſcorn and deriſion of all who hated it, he returned in triumph to his quarters in Weſtminſter.

MONK DECLARES FOR A FREE PARLIAMENT.

No ſooner had the general leiſure to reflect, than he found that this laſt meaſure, inſtead of being a continuation of that cautious ambiguity which he had hitherto maintained, was taking party without reſerve, and laying himſelf, as well as the nation, at the mercy of that tyrannical parliament whoſe power had long been odious, as their perſons contemptible, to all men. He reſolved, therefore, before it were too late, to repair the dangerous miſtake into which he had been betrayed, and to ſhew the whole world, ſtill more without reſerve, that he meant no longer to be the miniſter of violence and uſurpation. After complaining of the odious ſervice in which he had been employed, he wrote a letter to the houſe, reproaching them as well with the new cabals, which they had formed with Vane and Lambert, as with the encouragement given to a fanatical petition preſented by Praiſe-god Barebone; and he required them, in the name of the citizens, ſoldiers, and whole commonwealth, to iſſue writs within a week for the filling of their houſe, and

to fix the time for their own diſſolution and the aſſembling of a new parliament. Having diſpatched this letter, which might be regarded, he thought, as an undoubted pledge of his ſincerity, he marched with his army into the city, and deſired Allen, the mayor, to ſummon a common council at Guildhall. He there made many apologies for the indignity which, two days before, he had been obliged to put upon them; aſſured them of his perſeverance in the meaſures which he had adopted; and deſired that they might mutually plight their faith for a ſtrict union between city and army in every enterpriſe for the happineſs and ſettlement of the commonwealth.

It would be difficult to deſcribe the joy and exultation which diſplayed itſelf throughout the city, as ſoon as intelligence was conveyed of this happy meaſure embraced by the general. The proſpect of peace, concord, liberty, juſtice, broke forth at once, from amidſt the deepeſt darkneſs in which the nation had ever been involved. The view of paſt calamities no longer preſented diſmal prognoſtics of the future; it tended only to enhance the general exultation for thoſe ſcenes of happineſs and tranquillity which all men now confidently promiſed themſelves. The royaliſts, the preſbyterians, forgetting all animoſities, mingled in common joy and tranſport, and vowed never more to gratify the ambition of falſe and factious tyrants by their calamitous diviſions. The populace, more outrageous in their feſtivity, made the air reſound with acclamations, and illuminated every ſtreet with ſignals of jollity and triumph. Applauſes of the general were every where intermingled with deteſtation againſt the parliament. The moſt ridiculous inventions were adopted, in order to expreſs this latter paſſion. At every bonfire rumps were roaſted; and, where theſe could no longer be found, pieces of fleſh were cut into that ſhape; and the funeral of the parliament (the populace exclaimed) was celebrated by theſe ſymbols of hatred and deriſion.

The parliament, though in the agonies of deſpair, made ſtill one effort for the recovery of their dominion. They ſent a committee with offers to gain the general. He refuſed to hear them, except in the preſence of ſome of the ſecluded members. Though ſeveral perſons, deſperate from guilt and fanaticiſm, promiſed to inveſt him with the dignity of ſupreme magiſtrate, and to ſupport his government, he would not hearken to ſuch wild propoſals. Having fixed a cloſe correſpondence with the city, and eſtabliſhed its militia in hands whoſe fidelity could be relied on, he returned with his army to Weſtminſter, and purſued every proper meaſure for the ſettlement of the nation. While he ſtill pretended to maintain republican principles he was taking large ſteps towards the re-eſtabliſhment of the ancient monarchy.

MEMBERS RESTORED AND LONG PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED.

THE ſecluded members, upon the general's invitation, went to the houſe, and, finding no longer any obſtruction, they entered, and immediately appeared to be the majority: moſt of the independents left the place. The reſtored members firſt repealed all the ordinances by which they had been excluded; they gave ſir George Booth and his party their liberty and eſtates; they renewed the general's commiſſion, and enlarged his powers; they fixed an aſſeſſment for the ſupport of the fleet and army; and, having paſſed theſe votes for the preſent compoſure of the kingdom, they diſſolved themſelves, and iſſued writs for the immediate aſſembling of a new parliament. This laſt meaſure had been previouſly concerted with the general, who knew that all men, however different in affections, expectations, and deſigns, united in the deteſtation of the long parliament.

A council of ſtate was eſtabliſhed, conſiſting of men of character and moderation; moſt of whom, during the civil wars,

had made a great figure among the preſbyterians. The militia of the kingdom was put into ſuch hands as would promote order and ſettlement. Theſe, conjoined with Monk's army, which lay united at London, were eſteemed a ſufficient check on the more numerous, though diſperſed army, of whoſe inclinations there was ſtill much reaſon to be diffident. Monk, however, was every day removing the more obnoxious officers, and bringing the troops to a ſtate of diſcipline and obedience.

Overton, governor of Hull, had declared his reſolution to keep poſſeſſion of that fortreſs till the coming of king Jeſus; but, when Alured produced the authority of parliament for his delivering the place to colonel Fairfax, he thought proper to comply.

Montague, who commanded the fleet in the Baltic, had entered into the conſpiracy with ſir George Booth; and, pretending want of proviſions, had ſailed from the Sound towards the coaſt of England with an intention of ſupporting that inſurrection of the royaliſts. On his arrival he received the news of Booth's defeat, and the total failure of the enterpriſe. The great difficulties, to which the parliament was then reduced, allowed them no leiſure to examine ſtrictly the reaſons which he gave for quitting his ſtation; and they allowed him to retire peaceably to his country houſe. The council of ſtate now conferred on him, in conjunction with Monk, the command of the fleet; and ſecured the naval, as well as military, force in hands favourable to the public ſettlement.

Notwithſtanding all theſe ſteps which were taking towards the re-eſtabliſhment of monarchy, Monk ſtill maintained the appearance of zeal for a commonwealth, and hitherto allowed no canal of correſpondence between himſelf and the king to be opened. To call a free parliament, and to reſtore the royal family, were viſibly, in the preſent diſpoſition of the kingdom, one and the ſame meaſure: yet would not the general declare, other-

wiſe than by his actions, that he had adopted the king's intereſts; and nothing but neceſſity extorted at laſt the confeſſion from him. His ſilence, in the commencement of his enterpriſe, ought to be no objection to his ſincerity, ſince he maintained the ſame reſerve at a time when, conſiſtent with common ſenſe, he could have entertained no other purpoſe.[a]

There was one Morrice, a gentleman of Devonſhire, of a ſedentary, ſtudious diſpoſition, nearly related to Monk, and one who had always maintained the ſtricteſt intimacy with him. With this friend alone did Monk deliberate concerning that great enterpriſe which he had projected. Sir John Granville, who had a commiſſion from the king, applied to Morrice for acceſs to the general; but received for anſwer that the general deſired him to communicate his buſineſs to Morrice. Granville, though importunately urged, twice refuſed to deliver his meſſage to any but Monk himſelf; and this cautious politician, finding him now a perſon whoſe ſecreſy could be ſafely truſted, admitted him to his preſence, and opened to him his whole intentions. Still he ſcrupled to commit any thing [b] to writing; he delivered only a verbal meſſage by Granville, aſſuring the king of his ſervices, giving advice for his conduct, and exhorting him inſtantly to leave the Spaniſh territories, and retire into Holland. He was apprehenſive leſt Spain might detain him as a pledge for the recovery of Dunkirk and Jamaica. Charles followed theſe directions, and very narrowly eſcaped to Breda. Had he protracted his journey a few hours, he had certainly, under pretence of honour and reſpect, been arreſted by the Spaniards.

Lockhart, who was governor of Dunkirk, and nowiſe averſe to the king's ſervice, was applied to on this occaſion. The ſtate of England was ſet before him, the certainty of the reſtoration repreſented, and the proſpect of great favour diſplayed if he

would anticipate the vows of the kingdom, and receive the king into his fortreſs. Lockhart ſtill replied that his commiſſion was derived from an Engliſh parliament, and he would not open his gates but in obedience to the ſame authority.[c] This ſcruple, though in the preſent emergence it approaches towards ſuperſtition, it is difficult for us entirely to condemn.

NEW PARLIAMENT.

THE elections for the new parliament went every where in favour of the king's party. This was one of thoſe popular torrents where the moſt indifferent, or even the moſt averſe, are tranſported with the general paſſion, and zealouſly adopt the ſentiments of the community to which they belong. The enthuſiaſts themſelves ſeemed to be diſarmed of their fury; and, between deſpair and aſtoniſhment, gave way to thoſe meaſures which they found it would be impoſſible for them, by their utmoſt efforts, to withſtand. The preſbyterians and the royaliſts, being united, formed the voice of the nation, which, without noiſe, but with infinite ardour, called for the king's reſtoration. The kingdom was almoſt entirely in the hands of the former party; and ſome zealous leaders among them began to renew the demand of thoſe conditions which had been required of the late king in the treaty of Newport; but the general opinion ſeemed to condemn all thoſe rigorous and jealous capitulations with their ſovereign. Haraſſed with convulſions and diſorders, men ardently longed for repoſe, and were terrified at the mention of negociations or delays, which might afford opportunity to the ſeditious army ſtill to breed new confuſion. The paſſion too for liberty, having been carried to ſuch violent extremes, and having produced ſuch bloody commotions, began, by a natural movement, to give place to a ſpirit of loyalty and obedience;

and the public was leſs zealous in a cauſe which was become odious on account of the calamities which had ſo long attended it. After the legal conceſſions made by the late king the conſtitution ſeemed to be ſufficiently ſecured; and the additional conditions inſiſted on, as they had been framed during the greateſt ardour of the conteſt, amounted rather to annihilation than a limitation of monarchy. Above all, the general was averſe to the mention of conditions; and reſolved that the crown, which he intended to reſtore, ſhould be conferred on the king entirely free and unencumbered. Without farther ſcruple, therefore, or jealouſy, the people gave their voice in elections for ſuch as they knew to entertain ſentiments favourable to monarchy; and all paid court to a party which they foreſaw was ſoon to govern the nation. Though the parliament had voted that no one ſhould be elected who had himſelf, or whoſe father had, born arms for the late king, little regard was any where paid to this ordinance. The leaders of the preſbyterians, the earl of Mancheſter, lord Fairfax, lord Robarts, Hollis, ſir Anthony Aſhley Cooper, Anneſley, Lewis, were determined to atone for paſt tranſgreſſions by their preſent zeal for the royal intereſts; and, from former merits, ſucceſſes, and ſufferings, they had acquired with their party the higheſt credit and authority.

The affairs of Ireland were in a condition no leſs favourable to the king. As ſoon as Monk declared againſt the Engliſh army he diſpatched emiſſaries into Ireland, and engaged the officers in that kingdom to concur with him in the ſame meaſures. Lord Broghill, preſident of Munſter, and ſir Charles Coote, preſident of Connaught, went ſo far as to enter into a correſpondence with the king, and to promiſe their aſſiſtance for his reſtoration. In conjunction with ſir Theophilus Jones, and other officers, they took poſſeſſion of the government, and excluded

Ludlow, who was zealous for the rump parliament, but whom they pretended to be in a confederacy with the committee of ſafety. They kept themſelves in readineſs to ſerve the king; but made no declarations till they ſhould ſee the turn which affairs took in England.

But all theſe promiſing views had almoſt been blaſted by an untoward accident. Upon the admiſſion of the ſecluded members the republican party, particularly the late king's judges, were ſeized with the juſteſt deſpair, and endeavoured to infuſe the ſame ſentiments into the army. By themſelves or their emiſſaries, they repreſented to the ſoldiers that all thoſe brave actions, which had been performed during the war, and which were ſo meritorious in the eyes of the parliament, would no doubt be regarded as the deepeſt crimes by the royaliſts, and would expoſe the army to the ſevereſt vengeance: that in vain did that party make profeſſions of moderation and lenity; the king's death, the execution of ſo many of the nobility and gentry, the ſequeſtration and impriſonment of the reſt, were in their eyes crimes ſo deep, and offences ſo perſonal, as muſt be proſecuted with the moſt implacable reſentment: that the loſs of all arrears, and the caſhiering of every officer and ſoldier, were the lighteſt puniſhment which muſt be expected: after the diſperſion of the army no farther protection remained to them, either for life or property, but the clemency of enraged victors: and that, even if the moſt perfect ſecurity could be obtained, it were inglorious to be reduced, by treachery and deceit, to ſubjection under a foe who, in the open field, had ſo often yielded to their ſuperior valour.

After theſe ſuggeſtions had been infuſed into the army Lambert ſuddenly made his eſcape from the tower, and threw Monk and the council of ſtate into great conſternation. They knew Lambert's vigour and activity; they were acquainted with his

popularity in the army; they were ſenſible that, though the ſoldiers had lately deſerted him, they ſufficiently expreſſed their remorſe and their deteſtation of thoſe who, by falſe profeſſions, they found had ſo egregiouſly deceived them. It ſeemed neceſſary, therefore, to employ the greateſt celerity in ſuppreſſing ſo dangerous a foe: colonel Ingoldſby, who had been one of the late king's judges, but who was now entirely engaged in the royal cauſe, was diſpatched after him. He overtook him at Daventry, while he had yet aſſembled but four troops of horſe: one of them deſerted him; another quickly followed the example: he himſelf, endeavouring to make his eſcape, was ſeized by Ingoldſby, to whom he made ſubmiſſions not ſuitable to his former character of ſpirit and valour. Okey, Axtel, Cobbet, Crede, and other officers of that party, were taken priſoners with him. All the roads were full of ſoldiers haſtening to join them. In a few days they had been formidable: and it was thought that it might prove dangerous for Monk himſelf to have aſſembled any conſiderable body of his republican army for their ſuppreſſion: ſo that nothing could be more happy than the ſudden extinction of this riſing flame.

THE RESTORATION.

When the parliament met they choſe ſir Harbottle Grimſtone ſpeaker, a man who, though he had for ſome time concurred with the late parliament, had long been eſteemed affectionate to the king's ſervice. The great dangers incurred during former uſurpations, joined to the extreme caution of the general, kept every one in awe; and none dared, for ſome days, to make any mention of the king. The members exerted their ſpirit chiefly in bitter invectives againſt the memory of Cromwell, and in execrations againſt the inhuman murder of their late ſovereign.

At laſt the general, having ſufficiently ſounded their inclinations, gave directions to Anneſley, preſident of the council, to inform them that one ſir John Granville, a ſervant of the king's, had been ſent over by his majeſty, and was now at the door with a letter to the commons. The loudeſt acclamations were excited by this intelligence. Granville was called in; the letter, accompanied with a declaration, greedily read; without one moment's delay, and without a contradictory vote, a committee was appointed to prepare an anſwer; and, in order to ſpread the ſame ſatisfaction throughout the kingdom, it was voted that the letter and declaration ſhould immediately be publiſhed.

The people, freed from the ſtate of ſuſpenſe in which they had ſo long been held, now changed their anxious hope for the unmixt effuſions of joy; and diſplayed a ſocial triumph and exultation, which no private proſperity, even the greateſt, is ever able fully to inſpire. Traditions remain of men, particularly of Oughtred the mathematician, who died of pleaſure when informed of this happy and ſurpriſing event. The king's declaration was well calculated to uphold the ſatisfaction inſpired by the proſpect of public ſettlement. It offered a general amneſty to all perſons whatſoever, and that without any exceptions but ſuch as ſhould afterwards be made by parliament; it promiſed liberty of conſcience, and a concurrence in any act of parliament which, upon mature deliberation, ſhould be offered for inſuring that indulgence; it ſubmitted to the arbitration of the ſame aſſembly the inquiry into all grants, purchaſes, and alienations; and it aſſured the ſoldiers of all their arrears, and promiſed them, for the future, the ſame pay which they then enjoyed.

The lords, perceiving the ſpirit by which the kingdom, as well as the commons, was animated, haſtened to reinſtate them-

ſelves in their ancient authority, and to take their ſhare in the ſettlement of the nation. They found the doors of their houſe open; and all were admitted, even ſuch as had formerly been excluded on account of their pretended delinquency.

The two houſes attended; while the king was proclaimed, with great ſolemnity, in Palace-yard, at Whitehall, and at Temple-bar. The commons voted five hundred pounds to buy a jewel for Granville, who had brought them the king's gracious meſſages: a preſent of fifty thouſand pounds was conferred on the king, ten thouſand pounds on the duke of York, five thouſand pounds on the duke of Glouceſter. A committee of lords and commons was diſpatched to invite his majeſty to return and take poſſeſſion of the government. The rapidity with which all theſe events were conducted was marvellous, and diſcovered the paſſionate zeal and entire unanimity of the nation. Such an impatience appeared, and ſuch an emulation, in lords, and commons, and city, who ſhould make the moſt lively expreſſions of their joy and duty; that, as the noble hiſtorian expreſſes it, a man could not but wonder where thoſe people dwelt who had done all the miſchief, and kept the king ſo many years from enjoying the comfort and ſupport of ſuch excellent ſubjects. The king himſelf ſaid that it muſt ſurely have been his own fault that he had not ſooner taken poſſeſſion of the throne, ſince he found every body ſo zealous in promoting his happy reſtoration.

The reſpect of foreign powers ſoon followed the ſubmiſſion of the king's ſubjects. Spain invited him to return to the Low Countries, and embark in ſome of her maritime towns; France made proteſtations of affection and regard, and offered Calais for the ſame purpoſe; the States General ſent deputies with a like friendly invitation. The king reſolved to accept of this laſt offer. The people of the republic bore him a cordial affection;

and politics no longer reſtrained their magiſtrates from promoting and expreſſing that ſentiment. As he paſſed from Breda to the Hague he was attended by numerous crowds, and was received with the loudeſt acclamations; as if themſelves, not their rivals in power and commerce, were now reſtored to peace and ſecurity. The States General in a body, and afterwards the States of Holland apart, performed their compliments with the greateſt ſolemnity; every perſon of diſtinction was ambitious of being introduced to his majeſty; all ambaſſadors and public miniſters of kings, princes, or ſtates, repaired to him, and profeſſed the joy of their maſters in his behalf; ſo that one would have thought that from the united efforts of Chriſtendom had been derived this revolution, which diffuſed every where ſuch univerſal ſatisfaction.

The Engliſh fleet came in ſight of Scheveling. Montague had not waited for orders from the parliament; but had perſuaded the officers, of themſelves, to tender their duty to his majeſty. The duke of York immediately went on board, and took the command of the fleet as high-admiral.

When the king diſembarked at Dover he was met by the general, whom he cordially embraced. Never ſubject in fact, probably in his intentions, had deſerved better of his king and country. In the ſpace of a few months, without effuſion of blood, by his cautious and diſintereſted conduct alone, he had beſtowed ſettlement on three kingdoms, which had long been torn with the moſt violent convulſions; and, having obſtinately refuſed the moſt inviting conditions, offered him by the king as well as by every party in the kingdom, he freely reſtored his injured maſter to the vacant throne. The king entered London on the twenty-ninth of May, which was alſo his birth-day. The fond imaginations of men interpreted as a happy omen the concurrence of two ſuch joyful periods.

At this era it may be proper to ſtop a moment, and take a general ſurvey of the age, ſo far as regards manners, finances, arms, commerce, arts and ſciences. The chief uſe of hiſtory is, that it affords materials for diſquiſitions of this nature; and it ſeems the duty of an hiſtorian to point out the proper inferences and concluſions.

MANNERS AND ARTS.

No people could undergo a change more ſudden and entire in their manners than did the Engliſh nation during this period. From tranquillity, concord, ſubmiſſion, ſobriety, they paſſed in an inſtant to a ſtate of faction, fanaticiſm, rebellion, and almoſt frenzy. The violence of the Engliſh parties exceeded any thing which we can now imagine: had they continued but a little longer, there was juſt reaſon to dread all the horrors of the ancient maſſacres and proſcriptions. The military uſurpers, whoſe authority was founded on palpable injuſtice, and was ſupported by no national party, would have been impelled, by rage and deſpair, into ſuch ſanguinary meaſures; and, if theſe furious expedients had been employed on one ſide, revenge would naturally have puſhed the other party, after a return of power, to retaliate upon their enemies. No ſocial intercourſe was maintained between the parties; no marriages or alliances contracted. The royaliſts, though oppreſſed, haraſſed, perſecuted, diſdained all affinity with their maſters. The more they were reduced to ſubjection, the greater ſuperiority did they affect above thoſe uſurpers, who by violence and injuſtice had acquired an aſcendant over them.

The manners of the two factions were as oppoſite as thoſe of the moſt diſtant nations. 'Your friends, the Cavaliers,' ſaid a

parliamentarian to a royaliſt, 'are very diſſolute and debauched.' 'True,' replied the royaliſt, 'they have the infirmities of men; but your friends, the Roundheads, have the vices of devils, tyranny, rebellion,[d] and ſpiritual pride.' Riot and diſorder, it is certain, notwithſtanding the good example ſet them by Charles I, prevailed very much among his partiſans. Being commonly men of birth and fortune, to whom exceſſes are leſs pernicious than to the vulgar, they were too apt to indulge themſelves in all pleaſures, particularly thoſe of the table. Oppoſition to the rigid preciſeneſs of their antagoniſts increaſed their inclination to good fellowſhip; and the character of a man of pleaſure was affected among them, as a ſure pledge of attachment to the church and monarchy. Even when ruined by confiſcations and ſequeſtrations, they endeavoured to maintain the appearance of a careleſs and ſocial jollity. 'As much as hope is ſuperior to fear,' ſaid a poor and merry cavalier, 'ſo much is our ſituation preferable to that of our enemies. We laugh while they tremble.'

The gloomy enthuſiaſm, which prevailed among the parliamentary party, is ſurely the moſt curious ſpectacle preſented by any hiſtory; and the moſt inſtructive, as well as entertaining, to a philoſophical mind. All recreations were in a manner ſuſpended by the rigid ſeverity of the preſbyterians and independents. Horſe-races and cock-matches were prohibited as the greateſt enormities.[e] Even bear-baiting was eſteemed heatheniſh and unchriſtian: the ſport of it, not the inhumanity, gave offence. Colonel Hewſon, from his pious zeal, marched with his regiment into London, and deſtroyed all the bears which were there kept for the diverſion of the citizens. This adventure ſeems to have given birth to the fiction of Hudibras. Though the Engliſh nation be naturally candid and ſincere, hypocriſy prevailed among them beyond any example in ancient or modern times. The religious hypocriſy, it may be remarked, is of

a peculiar nature; and, being generally unknown to the perſon himſelf, though more dangerous, it implies leſs falſehood than any other ſpecies of inſincerity. The Old Teſtament, preferably to the New, was the favourite of all the ſectaries. The eaſtern poetical ſtyle of that compoſition made it more eaſily ſuſceptible of a turn which was agreeable to them.

We have had occaſion, in the courſe of this work, to ſpeak of many of the ſects which prevailed in England; to enumerate them all would be impoſſible. The quakers, however, are ſo conſiderable, at leaſt ſo ſingular, as to merit ſome attention; and, as they renounced by principle the uſe of arms, they never made ſuch a figure in public tranſactions as to enter into any part of our narrative.

The religion of the quakers, like moſt others, began with the loweſt vulgar, and, in its progreſs, came at laſt to comprehend people of better quality and faſhion. George Fox, born at Drayton in Lancaſhire in 1624, was the founder of this ſect. He was the ſon of a weaver, and was himſelf bound apprentice to a ſhoemaker. Feeling a ſtronger impulſe towards ſpiritual contemplations than towards that mechanical profeſſion, he left his maſter, and went about the country clothed in a leathern doublet, a dreſs which he long affected, as well for its ſingularity as its cheapneſs. That he might wean himſelf from ſublunary objects, he broke off all connexions with his friends and family, and never dwelled a moment in one place, leſt habit ſhould beget new connexions, and depreſs the ſublimity of his aerial meditations. He frequently wandered into the woods, and paſſed whole days in hollow trees, without company, or any other amuſement than his Bible. Having reached that pitch of perfection as to need no other book, he ſoon advanced to another ſtate of ſpiritual progreſs, and began to pay leſs regard even to that divine compoſition itſelf. His own breaſt, he imagined, was

full of the ſame inſpiration which had guided the prophets and apoſtles themſelves; and by this inward light muſt every ſpiritual obſcurity be cleared, by this living ſpirit muſt the dead letter be animated.

When he had been ſufficiently conſecrated in his own imagination, he felt that the fumes of ſelf-applauſe ſoon diſſipate, if not continually ſupplied by the admiration of others; and he began to ſeek proſelytes. Proſelytes were eaſily gained at a time when all men's affections were turned towards religion, and when the moſt extravagant modes of it were ſure to be moſt popular. All the forms of ceremony, invented by pride and oſtentation, Fox and his diſciples, from a ſuperior pride and oſtentation, carefully rejected; even the ordinary rites of civility were ſhunned, as the nouriſhment of carnal vanity and ſelf-conceit. They would beſtow no titles of diſtinction; the name of friend was the only ſalutation with which they indiſcriminately accoſted every one. To no perſon would they make a bow, or move their hat, or give any ſigns of reverence. Inſtead of that affected adulation, introduced into modern tongues, of ſpeaking to individuals as if they were a multitude, they returned to the ſimplicity of ancient languages; and thou and thee were the only expreſſions which, on any conſideration, they could be brought to employ.

Dreſs too, a material circumſtance, diſtinguiſhed the members of this ſect. Every ſuperfluity and ornament was carefully retrenched; no plaits to their coat, no buttons to their ſleeves; no lace, no ruffles, no embroidery; even a button to the hat, though ſometimes uſeful, yet not being always ſo, was univerſally rejected by them with horror and deteſtation.

The violent enthuſiaſm of this ſect, like all high paſſions, being too ſtrong for the weak nerves to ſuſtain, threw the preachers into convulſions, and ſhakings, and diſtortions in their

limbs; and they thence received the appellation of 'quakers.' Amidſt the great toleration which was then granted to all ſects, and even encouragement given to all innovations, this ſect alone ſuffered perſecution. From the fervour of their zeal, the quakers broke into churches, diſturbed public worſhip, and haraſſed the miniſter and audience with railing and reproaches. When carried before a magiſtrate they refuſed him all reverence, and treated him with the ſame familiarity as if he had been their equal. Sometimes they were thrown into mad-houſes, ſometimes into priſons; ſometimes whipped, ſometimes pilloried. The patience and fortitude with which they ſuffered begat compaſſion, admiration, eſteem.[f] A ſupernatural ſpirit was believed to ſupport them under thoſe ſufferings which the ordinary ſtate of humanity, freed from the illuſions of paſſion, is unable to ſuſtain.

The quakers creeped into the army; but, as they preached univerſal peace, they ſeduced the military zealots from their profeſſion, and would ſoon, had they been ſuffered, have put an end, without any defeat or calamity, to the dominion of the ſaints. Theſe attempts became a freſh ground of perſecution, and a new reaſon for their progreſs among the people.

Morals with this ſect were carried, or affected to be carried, to the ſame degree of extravagance as religion. Give a quaker a blow on one cheek, he held up the other; aſk his cloke, he gave you his coat alſo: the greateſt intereſt could not engage him, in any court of judicature, to ſwear even to the truth: he never aſked more for his wares than the preciſe ſum which he was determined to accept. This laſt maxim is laudable, and continues ſtill to be religiouſly obſerved by that ſect.

No fanatics ever carried farther the hatred to ceremonies, forms, orders, rites, and poſitive inſtitutions. Even baptiſm and the Lord's ſupper, by all other ſects believed to be interwoven

with the very vitals of Chriſtianity, were diſdainfully rejected by them. The very ſabbath they profaned; the holineſs of churches they derided; and they would give to theſe ſacred edifices no other appellation than that of ſhops or ſteeple-houſes. No prieſts were admitted in their ſect; every one had received from immediate illumination a character much ſuperior to the ſacerdotal. When they met for divine worſhip each roſe up in his place, and delivered the extemporary inſpirations of the Holy Ghoſt. Women alſo were admitted to teach the brethren, and were conſidered as proper vehicles to convey the dictates of the Spirit. Sometimes a great many preachers were moved to ſpeak at once; ſometimes a total ſilence prevailed in their congregations.

Some quakers attempted to faſt forty days, in imitation of Chriſt; and one of them bravely periſhed [g] in the experiment. A female quaker came naked into the church where the protector ſat; being moved by the Spirit, as ſhe ſaid, to appear as a ſign to the people. A number of them fancied that the renovation of all things had commenced, and that clothes were to be rejected, together with other ſuperfluities. The ſufferings which followed the practice of this doctrine were a ſpecies of perſecution not well calculated for promoting it.

James Naylor was a quaker, noted for blaſphemy, or rather madneſs, in the time of the protectorſhip. He fancied that he himſelf was transformed into Chriſt, and was become the real ſaviour of the world; and, in conſequence of this frenzy, he endeavoured to imitate many actions of the Meſſiah related in the evangeliſts. As he bore a reſemblance to the common pictures of Chriſt, he allowed his beard to grow in a like form: he raiſed a perſon from the dead:[h] he was miniſtered unto by women:[i] he entered Briſtol mounted on a horſe; I ſuppoſe from the difficulty, in that place, of finding an aſs: his diſciples ſpread

their garments before him, and cried, 'Hoſannah to the higheſt; holy, holy is the Lord God of ſabaoth.' When carried before the magiſtrate he would give no other anſwer to all queſtions than 'Thou haſt ſaid it.' What is remarkable, the parliament thought that the matter deſerved their attention. Near ten days they ſpent in inquiries and debates about him.[k] They condemned him to be pilloried, whipped, burned in the face, and to have his tongue bored through with a red-hot iron. All theſe ſeverities he bore with the uſual patience: ſo far his deluſion ſupported him: but the ſequel ſpoiled all. He was ſent to Bridewell, confined to hard labour, fed on bread and water, and debarred from all his diſciples, male and female. His illuſion diſſipated; and, after ſome time, he was contented to come out an ordinary man, and return to his uſual occupations.

The chief taxes in England, during the time of the commonwealth, were the monthly aſſeſſments, the exciſe, and the cuſtoms. The aſſeſſments were levied on perſonal eſtates as well as on land;[l] and commiſſioners were appointed in each county for rating the individuals. The higheſt aſſeſſment amounted to one hundred and twenty thouſand pounds a month in England; the loweſt was thirty-five thouſand. The aſſeſſments in Scotland were ſometimes ten thouſand pounds a month;[m] commonly ſix thouſand. Thoſe on Ireland nine thouſand. At a medium, this tax might have afforded about a million a year. The exciſe, during the civil wars, was levied on bread, fleſh meat, as well as beer, ale, ſtrong waters, and many other commodities. After the king was ſubdued bread and fleſh meat were exempted from exciſe. The cuſtoms on exportation were lowered in 1656.[n] In 1650 commiſſioners were appointed to levy both cuſtoms and exciſes. Cromwell in 1657 returned to the old practice of farming. Eleven hundred thouſand pounds were then offered, both

for cuſtoms and exciſe; a greater ſum than had ever been levied by the commiſſioners.[o] The whole of the taxes during that period might, at a medium, amount to above two millions a year; a ſum which, though moderate, much exceeded the revenue of any former king.[p] Sequeſtrations, compoſitions, ſale of crown and church lands, and of the lands of delinquents, yielded alſo conſiderable ſums, but very difficult to be eſtimated. Church lands are ſaid to have been ſold for a million.[q] None of theſe were ever valued at above ten or eleven years purchaſe.[r] The eſtates of delinquents amounted to above two hundred thouſand pounds a year.[s] Cromwell died more than two millions in debt;[t] though the parliament had left him in the treaſury above five hundred thouſand pounds, and in ſtores the value of ſeven hundred thouſand pounds.[u]

The committee of danger, in April 1648, voted to raiſe the army to forty thouſand men.[w] The ſame year the pay of the army was eſtimated at eighty thouſand pounds a month.[x] The eſtabliſhment of the army in 1652 was, in Scotland, fifteen thouſand foot, two thouſand five hundred and eighty horſe, five hundred and ſixty dragoons; in England, four thouſand ſeven hundred foot, two thouſand five hundred and twenty horſe, garriſons ſix thouſand one hundred and fifty-four: in all, thirty-one thouſand five hundred and nineteen, beſides officers.[y] The army in Scotland was afterwards conſiderably reduced. The army in Ireland was not much ſhort of twenty thouſand men. So that, upon the whole, the commonwealth maintained, in 1652, a ſtanding army of more than fifty thouſand men: its pay amounted to a yearly ſum of one million forty-ſeven thouſand ſeven hundred and fifteen pounds.[z] Afterwards the protector reduced the eſtabliſhment to thirty thouſand men, as appears by the Inſtrument of Government and Humble Petition and Advice. His frequent enterpriſes obliged him from time to time

to augment them. Richard had on foot, in England, an army of thirteen thouſand two hundred and fifty-eight men; in Scotland nine thouſand five hundred and ſix; in Ireland about ten thouſand men.[a] The foot ſoldiers had commonly a ſhilling a day;[b] the horſe had two ſhillings and ſix pence; ſo that many gentlemen and younger brothers of good family inliſted in the protector's cavalry.[c] No wonder that ſuch men were averſe from the re-eſtabliſhment of civil government, by which, they well knew, they muſt be deprived of ſo gainful a profeſſion.

At the time of the battle of Worceſter the parliament had on foot about eighty thouſand men, partly militia, partly regular forces. The vigour of the commonwealth, and the great capacity of thoſe members who had aſſumed the government, never at any time appeared ſo conſpicuous.[d]

The whole revenue of the public, during the protectorſhip of Richard, was eſtimated at one million eight hundred and ſixty-eight thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen pounds; his annual expenſes at two millions two hundred and one thouſand five hundred and forty pounds. An additional revenue was demanded from parliament.[e]

The commerce and induſtry of England increaſed extremely during the peaceable period of Charles's reign: the trade to the Eaſt Indies and to Guinea became conſiderable. The Engliſh poſſeſſed almoſt the ſole trade with Spain. Twenty thouſand cloths were annually ſent to Turkey.[f] Commerce met with interruption, no doubt, from the civil wars and convulſions which afterwards prevailed; though it ſoon recovered after the eſtabliſhment of the commonwealth. The war with the Dutch, by diſtreſſing the commerce of ſo formidable a rival, ſerved to encourage trade in England: the Spaniſh war was to an equal degree pernicious. All the effects of the Engliſh merchants, to an immenſe value, were confiſcated in Spain. The prevalence

of democratical principles engaged the country gentlemen to bind their ſons apprentices to merchants;[g] and commerce has ever ſince been more honourable in England than in any other European kingdom. The excluſive companies, which formerly confined trade, were never expreſsly aboliſhed by any ordinance of parliament during the commonwealth; but, as men paid no regard to the prerogative whence the charters of theſe companies were derived, the monopoly was gradually invaded, and commerce increaſed by the increaſe of liberty. Intereſt in 1650 was reduced to ſix per cent.

The cuſtoms in England, before the civil wars, are ſaid to have amounted to five hundred thouſand pounds a year;[h] a ſum ten times greater than during the beſt period in queen's Elizabeth's reign: but there is probably ſome exaggeration in this matter.

The poſt-houſe, in 1653, was farmed at ten thouſand pounds a year, which was deemed a conſiderable ſum for three kingdoms. Letters paid only about half the preſent poſtage.

From 1619 to 1638 there had been coined ſix millions nine hundred thouſand and forty-two pounds. From 1638 to 1657 the coinage amounted to ſeven millions ſeven hundred and thirty-three thouſand five hundred and twenty-one pounds.[i] Dr. Davenant has told us, from the regiſters of the mint, that between 1558 and 1659 there had been coined nineteen millions eight hundred and thirty-two thouſand four hundred and ſeventy-ſix pounds in gold and ſilver.

The firſt mention of tea, coffee, and chocolate,[k] is about 1660. Aſparagus, artichoaks, cauliflower, and a variety of ſallads, were about the ſame time introduced into England.[l]

The colony of New England increaſed by means of the puritans, who fled thither, in order to free themſelves from the conſtraint which Laud and the church party had impoſed upon

them; and, before the commencement of the civil wars, it is ſuppoſed to have contained twenty-five thouſand ſouls.[m] For a like reaſon the catholics afterwards, who found themſelves expoſed to many hardſhips, and dreaded ſtill worſe treatment, went over to America in great numbers, and ſettled the colony of Maryland.

Before the civil wars learning and the fine arts were favoured at court, and a good taſte began to prevail in the nation. The king loved pictures, ſometimes handled the pencil himſelf, and was a good judge of the art. The pieces of foreign maſters were bought up at a vaſt price; and the value of pictures doubled in Europe by the emulation between Charles and Philip IV of Spain, who were touched with the ſame elegant paſſion. Vandyke was careſſed and enriched at court. Inigo Jones was maſter of the king's buildings; though afterwards perſecuted by the parliament, on account of the part which he had in rebuilding St. Paul's, and for obeying ſome orders of council, by which he was directed to pull down houſes, in order to make room for that edifice. Laws, who had not been ſurpaſſed by any muſician before him, was much beloved by the king, who called him the father of muſic. Charles was a good judge of writing, and was thought by ſome more anxious with regard to purity of ſtyle than became a monarch.[n] Notwithſtanding his narrow revenue, and his freedom from all vanity, he lived in ſuch magnificence, that he poſſeſſed four-and-twenty palaces, all of them elegantly and completely furniſhed; inſomuch that, when he removed from one to another, he was not obliged to tranſport any thing along with him.

Cromwell, though himſelf a barbarian, was not inſenſible to literary merit. Uſher, notwithſtanding his being a biſhop, received a penſion from him. Marvel and Milton were in his ſervice. Waller, who was his relation, was careſſed by him.

The poet always ſaid that the protector himſelf was not ſo wholly illiterate as was commonly imagined. He gave a hundred pounds a year to the divinity profeſſor at Oxford; and an hiſtorian mentions this bounty as an inſtance of his love of literature.[o] He intended to have erected a college at Durham for the benefit of the northern counties.

Civil wars, eſpecially when founded on principles of liberty, are not commonly unfavourable to the arts of eloquence and compoſition; or rather, by preſenting nobler and more intereſting objects, they amply compenſate that tranquillity of which they bereave the muſes. The ſpeeches of the parliamentary orators during this period are of a ſtrain much ſuperior to what any former age had produced in England; and the force and compaſs of our tongue were then firſt put to trial. It muſt, however, be confeſſed that the wretched fanaticiſm, which ſo much infected the parliamentary party, was no leſs deſtructive of taſte and ſcience than of all law and order. Gaiety and wit were proſcribed; human learning deſpiſed; freedom of inquiry deteſted; cant and hypocriſy alone encouraged. It was an article poſitively inſiſted on, in the preliminaries to the treaty of Uxbridge, that all playhouſes ſhould for ever be aboliſhed. Sir John Davenant, ſays Whitlocke,[p] ſpeaking of the year 1658, publiſhed an opera, notwithſtanding the nicety of the times. All the king's furniture was put to ſale: his pictures, diſpoſed of at very low prices, enriched all the collections in Europe: the cartoons, when complete, were only appraiſed at three hundred pounds, though the whole collection of the king's curioſities was ſold at above fifty thouſand.[q] Even the royal palaces were pulled in pieces, and the materials of them ſold. The very library and medals at St. James's were intended by the generals to be brought to auction, in order to pay the arrears of ſome regiments of cavalry quartered near London: but Selden, ap-

prehenſive of the loſs, engaged his friend Whitlocke, then lord-keeper for the commonwealth, to apply for the office of librarian. This expedient ſaved that valuable collection.

It is, however, remarkable that the greateſt genius by far, that ſhone out in England during this period, was deeply engaged with theſe fanatics, and even proſtituted his pen in theological controverſy, in factious diſputes, and in juſtifying the moſt violent meaſures of the party. This was John Milton, whoſe poems are admirable, though liable to ſome objections; his proſe writings diſagreeable, though not altogether defective in genius. Nor are all his poems equal: his Paradiſe Loſt, his Comus, and a few others, ſhine out amidſt ſome flat and inſipid compoſitions; even in the Paradiſe Loſt, his capital performance, there are very long paſſages, amounting to near a third of the work, almoſt wholly deſtitute of harmony and elegance, nay, of all vigour of imagination. This natural inequality in Milton's genius was much increaſed by the inequalities in his ſubject; of which ſome parts are of themſelves the moſt lofty that can enter into human conception; others would have required the moſt laboured elegance of compoſition to ſupport them. It is certain that this author, when in a happy mood, and employed on a noble ſubject, is the moſt wonderfully ſublime of any poet in any language; Homer and Lucretius and Taſſo not excepted. More conciſe than Homer, more ſimple than Taſſo, more nervous than Lucretius; had he lived in a later age, and learned to poliſh ſome rudeneſs in his verſes; had he enjoyed better fortune, and poſſeſſed leiſure to watch the returns of genius in himſelf, he had attained the pinnacle of perfection, and born away the palm of epic poetry.

It is well known that Milton never enjoyed in his lifetime the reputation which he deſerved. His Paradiſe Loſt was long neglected: prejudices againſt an apologiſt for the regicides, and

againſt a work not wholly purged from the cant of former times, kept the ignorant world from perceiving the prodigious merit of that performance. Lord Somers, by encouraging a good edition of it, about twenty years after the author's death, firſt brought it into requeſt; and Tonſon, in his dedication of a ſmaller edition, ſpeaks of it as a work juſt beginning to be known. Even during the prevalence of Milton's party he ſeems never to have been much regarded; and Whitlocke[r] talks of one Milton, as he calls him, a blind man, who was employed in tranſlating a treaty with Sweden into Latin. Theſe forms of expreſſion are amuſing to poſterity, who conſider how obſcure Whitlocke himſelf, though lord-keeper and ambaſſador, and indeed a man of great abilities and merit, has become in compariſon of Milton.

It is not ſtrange that Milton received no encouragement after the reſtoration; it is more to be admired that he eſcaped with his life. Many of the cavaliers blamed extremely that lenity towards him which was ſo honourable in the king, and ſo advantageous to poſterity. It is ſaid that he had ſaved Davenant's life during the protectorſhip; and Davenant, in return, afforded him like protection after the reſtoration; being ſenſible that men of letters ought always to regard their ſympathy of taſte as a more powerful band of union, than any difference of party or opinion as a ſource of animoſity. It was during a ſtate of poverty, blindneſs, diſgrace, danger, and old age, that Milton compoſed his wonderful poem, which not only ſurpaſſed all the performances of his cotemporaries, but all the compoſitions which had flowed from his pen during the vigour of his age and the height of his proſperity. This circumſtance is not the leaſt remarkable of all thoſe which attend that great genius. He died in 1674, aged ſixty-ſix.

Waller was the firſt refiner of Engliſh poetry, at leaſt of Engliſh rhyme; but his performances ſtill abound with many faults, and, what is more material, they contain but feeble and ſuperficial beauties. Gaiety, wit, and ingenuity, are their ruling character; they aſpire not to the ſublime, ſtill leſs to the pathetic; they treat of love without making us feel any tenderneſs, and abound in panegyric without exciting admiration: the panegyric, however, on Cromwell, contains more force than we ſhould expect from the other compoſitions of this poet.

Waller was born to an ample fortune, was early introduced to the court, and lived in the beſt company. He poſſeſſed talents for eloquence as well as poetry; and till his death, which happened in a good old age, he was the delight of the houſe of commons. The errors of his life proceeded more from want of courage than of honour or integrity. He died in 1687, aged eighty-two.

Cowley is an author extremely corrupted by the bad taſte of his age; but, had he lived even in the pureſt times of Greece or Rome, he muſt always have been a very indifferent poet. He had no ear for harmony; and his verſes are only known to be ſuch by the rhyme which terminates them. In his rugged untuneable numbers are conveyed ſentiments the moſt ſtrained and diſtorted; long-ſpun allegories, diſtant alluſions, and forced conceits: great ingenuity, however, and vigour of thought, ſometimes break out amidſt thoſe unnatural conceptions: a few anacreontics ſurpriſe us by their eaſe and gaiety. His proſe writings pleaſe, by the honeſty and goodneſs which they expreſs, and even by their ſpleen and melancholy. This author was much more praiſed and admired during his lifetime, and celebrated after his death, than the great Milton. He died in 1667, aged forty-nine.

Sir John Denham, in his Cooper's Hill (for none of his other poems merit attention), has a loftineſs and vigour which had

not before him been attained by any Engliſh poet who wrote in rhyme. The mechanical difficulties of that meaſure retarded its improvement. Shakeſpeare, whoſe tragic ſcenes are ſometimes ſo wonderfully forcible and expreſſive, is a very indifferent poet when he attempts to rhyme. Preciſion and neatneſs are chiefly wanting in Denham. He died in 1688, aged ſeventy-three.

No Engliſh author in that age was more celebrated, both abroad and at home, than Hobbes: in our time he is much neglected; a lively inſtance how precarious are all reputations founded on reaſoning and philoſophy! A pleaſant comedy, which paints the manners of the age, and expoſes a faithful picture of nature, is a durable work, and is tranſmitted to the lateſt poſterity. But a ſyſtem, whether phyſical or metaphyſical, commonly owes its ſucceſs to its novelty; and is no ſooner canvaſſed with impartiality than its weakneſs is diſcovered. Hobbes's politics are fitted only to promote tyranny, and his ethics to encourage licentiouſneſs. Though an enemy to religion, he partakes nothing of the ſpirit of ſcepticiſm; but is as poſitive and dogmatical as if human reaſon, and his reaſon in particular, could attain a thorough conviction in theſe ſubjects. Clearneſs and propriety of ſtyle are the chief excellencies of Hobbes's writings. In his own perſon he is repreſented to have been a man of virtue; a character nowiſe ſurpriſing, notwithſtanding his libertine ſyſtem of ethics. Timidity is the principal fault with which he is reproached. He lived to an extreme old age, yet could never reconcile himſelf to the thoughts of death. The boldneſs of his opinions and ſentiments forms a remarkable contraſt to this part of his character. He died in 1679, aged ninety-one.

Harrington's Oceana was well adapted to that age, when the plans of imaginary republics were the daily ſubjects of debate and converſation; and even in our time it is juſtly admired as a

work of genius and invention. The idea, however, of a perfect and immortal commonwealth will always be found as chimerical as that of a perfect and immortal man. The ſtyle of this author wants eaſe and fluency; but the good matter which his work contains makes compenſation. He died in 1677, aged ſixty-ſix.

Harvey is entitled to the glory of having made, by reaſoning alone, without any mixture of accident, a capital diſcovery in one of the moſt important branches of ſcience. He had alſo the happineſs of eſtabliſhing at once this theory on the moſt ſolid and convincing proofs; and poſterity has added little to the arguments ſuggeſted by his induſtry and ingenuity. His treatiſe of the circulation of the blood is farther embelliſhed by that warmth and ſpirit which ſo naturally accompany the genius of invention. This great man was much favoured by Charles I, who gave him the liberty of uſing all the deer in the royal foreſts for perfecting his diſcoveries on the generation of animals. It was remarked that no phyſician in Europe, who had reached forty years of age, ever, to the end of his life, adopted Harvey's doctrine of the circulation of the blood, and that his practice in London diminiſhed extremely from the reproach drawn upon him by that great and ſignal diſcovery. So ſlow is the progreſs of truth in every ſcience, even when not oppoſed by factious or ſuperſtitious prejudices! He died in 1657, aged ſeventy-nine.

This age affords great materials for hiſtory, but did not produce any accompliſhed hiſtorian. Clarendon, however, will always be eſteemed an entertaining writer, even independent of our curioſity to know the facts which he relates. His ſtyle is prolix and redundant, and ſuffocates us by the length of its periods; but it diſcovers imagination and ſentiment, and pleaſes us at the ſame time that we diſapprove of it. He is more partial in appearance than in reality; for he ſeems perpetually

anxious to apologiſe for the king, but his apologies are often well grounded. He is leſs partial in his relation of facts than in his account of characters: he was too honeſt a man to falſify the former; his affections were eaſily capable, unknown to himſelf, of diſguiſing the latter. An air of probity and goodneſs runs through the whole work, as theſe qualities did in reality embelliſh the whole life of the author. He died in 1674, aged ſixty-ſix.

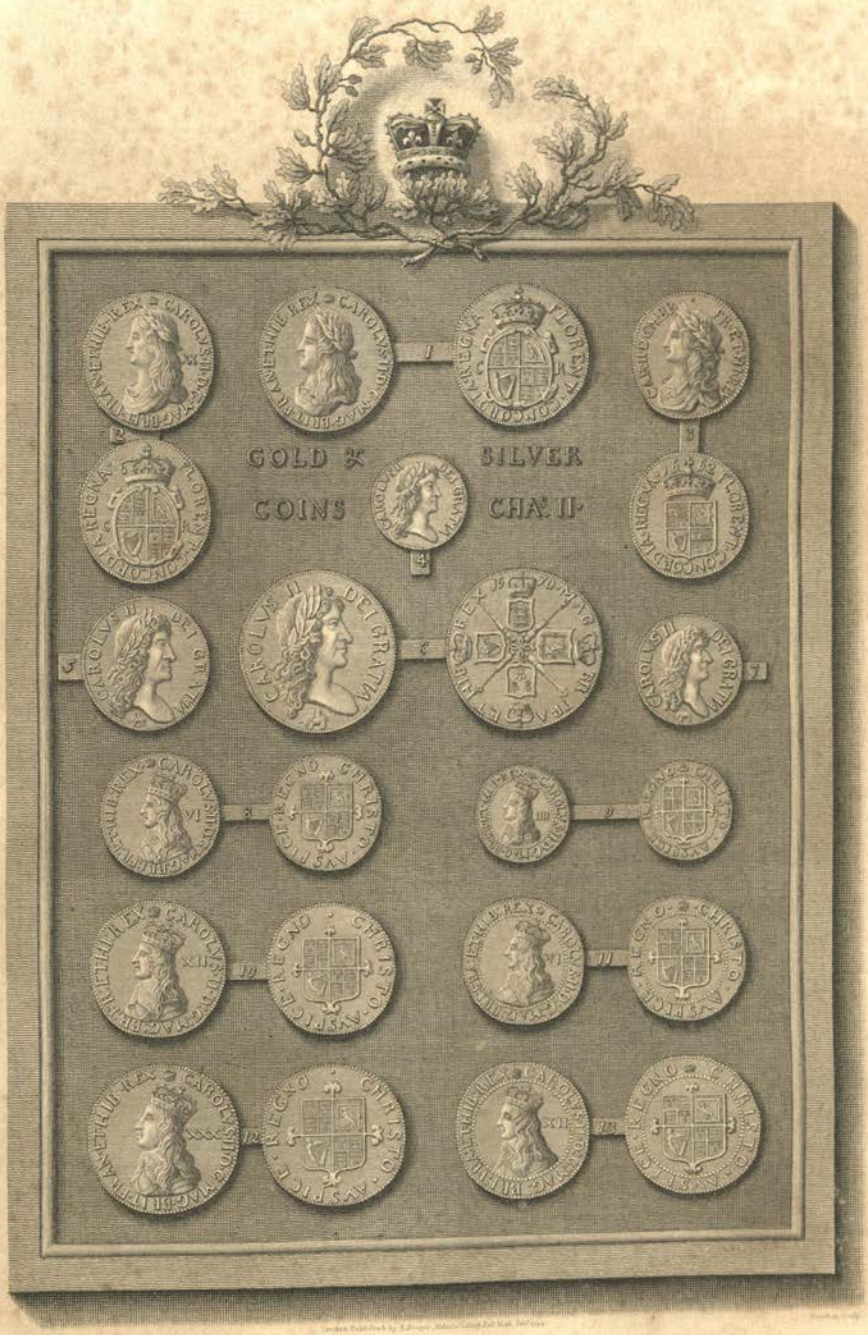
Theſe are the chief performances which engage the attention of poſterity. Thoſe numberleſs productions with which the preſs then abounded; the cant of the pulpit, the declamations of party, the ſubtilties of theology; all theſe have long ago ſunk in ſilence and oblivion. Even a writer, ſuch as Selden, whoſe learning was his chief excellency; or Chillingworth, an acute diſputant againſt the papiſts; will ſcarcely be ranked among the claſſics of our language or country.

LADY MARY PRESENTED TO THE PRINCE OF ORANGE.

CHARLES II.

CHAP. LXIII. LXIV. LXV. LXVI. LXVII. LXVIII. LXIX.

NEW MINISTRY: DISSOLUTION OF THE CONVENTION: CORPORATION ACT: RUPTURE WITH FRANCE: FIRE OF LONDON: WAR DECLARED WITH HOLLAND: BATTLE OF SOLEBAY: PEACE WITH HOLLAND: PARLIAMENTS DISTRUST OF THE KING: MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE OF ORANGE WITH THE LADY MARY: PEACE OF NIMEGUEN: POPISH PLOT: DISSOLUTION OF THE KING PARLIAMENT: VIOLENCE OF THE COMMONS: EXECUTION OF STAFFORD: CONSPIRACY: TRIAL OF LORD RUSSEL: KING'S SICKNESS & DEATH.


GOLD & SILVER
COINS CHA: II:

CHAPTER LXIII.

CHARLES II.

1660....1685.

NEW MINISTRY....ACT OF INDEMNITY....SETTLEMENT OF THE REVENUE....TRIAL AND EXECUTION OF THE REGICIDES....DISSOLUTION OF THE PARLIAMENT....PRELACY RESTORED....INSURRECTION OF THE MILLENARIANS....AFFAIRS OF SCOTLAND....CONFERENCE AT THE SAVOY....ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST A COMPREHENSION....A NEW PARLIAMENT....BISHOPS' SEATS RESTORED....CORPORATION ACT....ACT OF UNIFORMITY....KING'S MARRIAGE....TRIAL OF VANE....AND EXECUTION....PRESBYTERIAN CLERGY EJECTED....DUNKIRK SOLD TO THE FRENCH....DECLARATION OF INDULGENCE....DECLINE OF CLARENDON'S CREDIT.

CHARLES II, when he aſcended the throne of his anceſtors, was thirty years of age. He poſſeſſed a vigorous conſtitution, a fine ſhape, a manly figure, a graceful air; and, though his features were harſh, yet was his countenance in the main lively and engaging. He was in that period of life when there remains enough of youth to render the perſon amiable, without preventing that authority and regard which attend the years of experience and maturity. Tenderneſs was excited by the memory of his recent adverſities. His preſent proſperity was the

object rather of admiration than of envy. And, as the ſudden and ſurpriſing revolution, which reſtored him to his regal rights, had alſo reſtored the nation to peace, law, order, and liberty, no prince ever obtained a crown in more favourable circumſtances, or was more bleſt with the cordial affection and attachment of his ſubjects.

This popularity the king, by his whole demeanor and behaviour, was well qualified to ſupport and to increaſe. To a lively wit and quick comprehenſion he united a juſt underſtanding, and a general obſervation both of men and things. The eaſieſt manners, the moſt unaffected politeneſs, the moſt engaging gaiety, accompanied his converſation and addreſs. Accuſtomed, during his exile, to live among his courtiers rather like a companion than a monarch, he retained, even while on the throne, that open affability which was capable of reconciling the moſt determined republicans to his royal dignity. Totally devoid of reſentment, as well from the natural lenity as careleſſneſs of his temper, he enſured pardon to the moſt guilty of his enemies, and left hopes of favour to his moſt violent opponents. From the whole tenor of his actions and diſcourſe he ſeemed deſirous of loſing the memory of paſt animoſities, and of uniting every party in an affection for their prince and their native country.

NEW MINISTRY. 1660.

Into his council were admitted the moſt eminent men of the nation, without regard to former diſtinctions: the preſbyterians, equally with the royaliſts, ſhared this honour. Anneſley was alſo created earl of Angleſey, Aſhley Cooper lord Aſhley, Denzil Hollis lord Hollis; the earl of Mancheſter was appointed lord chamberlain, and lord Say privy ſeal; Calamy and Baxter, preſbyterian clergymen, were even made chaplains to the king.

Admiral Montague, created earl of Sandwich, was entitled, from his recent ſervices, to great favour, and he obtained it. Monk, created duke of Albemarle, had performed ſuch ſignal ſervices, that, according to a vulgar and malignant obſervation, he ought rather to have expected hatred and ingratitude; yet was he ever treated by the king with great marks of diſtinction. Charles's diſpoſition, free from jealouſy; and the prudent behaviour of the general, who never over-rated his merits; prevented all thoſe diſguſts which naturally ariſe in ſo delicate a ſituation. The capacity too of Albemarle was not extenſive, and his parts were more ſolid than ſhining. Though he had diſtinguiſhed himſelf in inferior ſtations, he was imagined, upon familiar acquaintance, not to be wholly equal to thoſe great achievements which fortune, united to prudence, had enabled him to perform; and he appeared unfit for the court, a ſcene of life to which he had never been accuſtomed. Morrice, his friend, was created ſecretary of ſtate, and was ſupported more by his patron's credit than by his own abilities or experience.

But the choice which the king at firſt made of his principal miniſters and favourites was the circumſtance which chiefly gave contentment to the nation, and prognoſticated future happineſs and tranquillity. Sir Edward Hyde, created earl of Clarendon, was chancellor and prime miniſter; the marquis, created duke of Ormond, was ſteward of the houſehold; the earl of Southampton high treaſurer; ſir Edward Nicholas ſecretary of ſtate. Theſe men, united together in friendſhip, and combining in the ſame laudable inclinations, ſupported each other's credit, and purſued the intereſts of the public.

Agreeable to the preſent proſperity of public affairs was the univerſal joy and feſtivity diffuſed throughout the nation. The melancholy auſterity of the fanatics fell into diſcredit, together with their principles. The royaliſts, who had ever affected a

contrary diſpoſition, found in their recent ſucceſs new motives for mirth and gaiety; and it now belonged to them to give repute and faſhion to their manners. From paſt experience it had ſufficiently appeared that gravity was very diſtinct from wiſdom, formality from virtue, and hypocriſy from religion. The king himſelf, who bore a ſtrong propenſity to pleaſure, ſerved, by his powerful and engaging example, to baniſh thoſe four and malignant humours, which had hitherto engendered ſuch confuſion. And, though the juſt bounds were undoubtedly paſſed when men returned from their former extreme, yet was the public happy in exchanging vices, pernicious to ſociety, for diſorders hurtful chiefly to the individuals themſelves who were guilty of them.

It required ſome time before the ſeveral parts of the ſtate, disfigured by war and faction, could recover their former arrangement: but the parliament immediately fell into good correſpondence with the king; and they treated him with the ſame dutiful regard which had uſually been paid to his predeceſſors. Being ſummoned without the king's conſent, they received, at firſt, only the title of a convention; and it was not till he paſſed an act for that purpoſe that they were called by the appellation of parliament. All judicial proceedings, tranſacted in the name of the commonwealth or protector, were ratified by a new law: and both houſes, acknowledging the guilt of the former rebellion, gratefully received, in their own name, and in that of all the ſubjects, his majeſty's gracious pardon and indemnity.

ACT OF INDEMNITY.

The king, before his reſtoration, being afraid of reducing any of his enemies to deſpair, and at the ſame time unwilling that ſuch enormous crimes as had been committed ſhould receive a

total impunity, had expreſſed himſelf very cautiouſly in his declaration of Breda, and had promiſed an indemnity to all criminals but ſuch as ſhould be excepted by parliament. He now iſſued a proclamation, declaring that ſuch of the late king's judges as did not yield themſelves priſoners within fourteen days ſhould receive no pardon. Nineteen ſurrendered themſelves; ſome were taken in their flight; others eſcaped beyond ſea.

The commons ſeem to have been more inclined to lenity than the lords. The upper houſe, inflamed by the ill uſage which they had received, were reſolved, beſides the late king's judges, to except every one who had ſitten in any high court of juſtice. Nay, the earl of Briſtol moved that no pardon might be granted to thoſe who had anywiſe contributed to the king's death. So wide an exception, in which every one who had ſerved the parliament might be comprehended, gave a general alarm; and men began to apprehend that this motion was the effect of ſome court artifice or intrigue. But the king ſoon diſſipated theſe fears. He came to the houſe of peers; and, in the moſt earneſt terms, paſſed the act of general indemnity. He urged both the neceſſity of the thing and the obligation of his former promiſe: a promiſe, he ſaid, which he would ever regard as ſacred; ſince to it he probably owed the ſatisfaction, which at preſent he enjoyed, of meeting his people in parliament. This meaſure of the king's was received with great applauſe and ſatisfaction.

After repeated ſolicitations the act of indemnity paſſed both houſes, and ſoon received the royal aſſent. Thoſe who had an immediate hand in the late king's death were there excepted; even Cromwell, Ireton, Bradſhaw, and others now dead, were attainted, and their eſtates forfeited. Vane and Lambert, though none of the regicides, were alſo excepted. St. John, and ſeventeen perſons more, were deprived of all benefit from this act if

they ever accepted any public employment. All who had ſitten in any illegal high court of juſtice were diſabled from bearing offices. Theſe were all the ſeverities which followed ſuch furious civil wars and convulſions.

SETTLEMENT OF THE REVENUE.

THE next buſineſs was the ſettlement of the king's revenue. In this work the parliament had regard to public freedom as well as to the ſupport of the crown. The tenures of wards and liveries had long been regarded as a grievous burden by the nobility and gentry: ſeveral attempts had been made during the reign of James to purchaſe this prerogative, together with that of purveyance; and two hundred thouſand pounds a year had been offered that prince in lieu of them: wardſhips and purveyance had been utterly aboliſhed by the republican parliament: and even in the preſent parliament, before the king arrived in England, a bill had been introduced, offering him a compenſation for the emolument of theſe prerogatives. A hundred thouſand pounds a year was the ſum agreed to; and half of the exciſe was ſettled in perpetuity upon the crown as the fund whence this revenue ſhould be levied. Though that impoſt yielded more profit, the bargain might be eſteemed hard; and it was chiefly the neceſſity of the king's ſituation which induced him to conſent to it. No requeſt of the parliament, during the preſent joy, could be refuſed them.

Tonnage and poundage, and the other half of the exciſe, were granted to the king during life. The parliament even proceeded ſo far as to vote that the ſettled revenue of the crown, for all charges, ſhould be twelve hundred thouſand pounds a year; a ſum greater than any Engliſh monarch had ever before enjoyed. But, as all the princes of Europe were perpetually

augmenting their military force, and conſequently their expenſe, it became requiſite that England, from motives both of honour and ſecurity, ſhould bear ſome proportion to them, and adapt its revenue to the new ſyſtem of politics which prevailed. According to the chancellor's computation, a charge of eight hundred thouſand pounds a year was at preſent requiſite for the fleet and other articles, which formerly coſt the crown but eighty thouſand.

Had the parliament, before reſtoring the king, inſiſted on any farther limitations than thoſe which the conſtitution already impoſed, beſides the danger of reviving former quarrels among parties, it would ſeem that their precaution had been entirely ſuperfluous. By reaſon of its ſlender and precarious revenue, the crown in effect was ſtill totally dependent. Not a fourth part of this ſum, which ſeemed requiſite for public expenſes, could be levied without conſent of parliament; and any conceſſions, had they been thought neceſſary, might, even after the reſtoration, be extorted by the commons from their neceſſitous prince. This parliament ſhewed no intention of employing at preſent that engine to any ſuch purpoſes; but they ſeemed ſtill determined not to part with it entirely, or to render the revenues of the crown fixed and independent. Though they voted in general that twelve hundred thouſand pounds a year ſhould be ſettled on the king, they ſcarcely aſſigned any funds which could yield two thirds of that ſum; and they left the care of fulfilling their engagements to the future conſideration of parliament.

In all the temporary ſupplies which they voted they diſcovered the ſame cautious frugality. To diſband the army, ſo formidable in itſelf, and ſo much accuſtomed to rebellion and changes of government, was neceſſary for the ſecurity both of king and parliament; yet the commons ſhewed great jealouſy

in granting the ſums requiſite for that end. An aſſeſſment of ſeventy thouſand pounds a month was impoſed; but it was at firſt voted to continue only three months: and all the other ſums, which they levied for that purpoſe by a poll-bill and new aſſeſſments, were ſtill granted by parcels; as if they were not as yet well aſſured of the fidelity of the hand to which the money was intruſted. Having proceeded ſo far in the ſettlement of the nation, the parliament adjourned itſelf for ſome time.

TRIAL AND EXECUTION OF THE REGICIDES.

During the receſs of parliament the object which chiefly intereſted the public was the trial and condemnation of the regicides. The general indignation, attending the enormous crime of which theſe men had been guilty, made their ſufferings the ſubject of joy to the people; but, in the peculiar circumſtances of that action, in the prejudices of the times, as well as in the behaviour of the criminals, a mind ſeaſoned with humanity will find a plentiful ſource of compaſſion and indulgence. Can any one, without concern for human blindneſs and ignorance, conſider the demeanour of general Harriſon, who was firſt brought to his trial? With great courage, and elevation of ſentiment, he told the court that the pretended crime, of which he ſtood accuſed, was not a deed performed in a corner: the ſound of it had gone forth to moſt nations; and in the ſingular and marvellous conduct of it had chiefly appeared the ſovereign power of heaven. That he himſelf, agitated by doubts, had often, with paſſionate tears, offered up his addreſſes to the divine Majeſty, and earneſtly ſought for light and conviction: he had ſtill received aſſurance of a heavenly ſanction, and returned from theſe devout ſupplications with more ſerene tranquillity and ſatisfaction. That all the nations of the earth were, in the eyes of

their Creator, leſs than a drop of water in the bucket; nor were their erroneous judgments aught but darkneſs, compared with divine illuminations. That theſe frequent illapſes of the divine Spirit he could not ſuſpect to be intereſted illuſions; ſince he was conſcious that for no temporal advantage would he offer injury to the pooreſt man or woman that trod upon the earth. That all the allurements of ambition, all the terrors of impriſonment, had not been able, during the uſurpation of Cromwell, to ſhake his ſteady reſolution, or bend him to a compliance with that deceitful tyrant. And that, when invited by him to ſit on the right hand of the throne, when offered riches and ſplendour and dominion, he had diſdainfully rejected all temptations; and, neglecting the tears of his friends and family, had ſtill, through every danger, held faſt his principles and his integrity.

Scot, who was more a republican than a fanatic, had ſaid in the houſe of commons, a little before the reſtoration, that he deſired no other epitaph to be inſcribed on his tomb-ſtone than this....'Here lies Thomas Scot, who adjudged the king to death.' He ſupported the ſame ſpirit upon his trial.

Carew, a millenarian, ſubmitted to his trial, 'ſaving to our Lord Jeſus Chriſt his right to the government of theſe kingdoms.' Some ſcrupled to ſay, according to form, that they would be tried by God and their country, becauſe God was not viſibly preſent to judge them. Others ſaid that they would be tried by the word of God.

No more than ſix of the late king's judges, Harriſon, Scot, Carew, Clement, Jones, and Scrope, were executed; Scrope alone of all thoſe who came in upon the king's proclamation. He was a gentleman of good family, and of a decent character; but it was proved that he had a little before, in converſation, expreſſed himſelf as if he were nowiſe convinced of any guilt in con-

demning the king. Axtel, who had guarded the high court of juſtice, Hacker, who commanded on the day of the king's execution, Coke, the ſolicitor for the people of England, and Hugh Peters, the fanatical preacher, who inflamed the army and impelled them to regicide; all theſe were tried and condemned, and ſuffered with the king's judges. No ſaint or confeſſor ever went to martyrdom with more aſſured confidence of heaven than was expreſſed by thoſe criminals, even when the terrors of immediate death, joined to many indignities, were ſet before them. The reſt of the king's judges, by an unexampled lenity, were reprieved, and they were diſperſed into ſeveral priſons.

This puniſhment of declared enemies interrupted not the rejoicings of the court; but the death of the duke of Gloceſter, a young prince of promiſing hopes, threw a great cloud upon them. The king, by no incident in his life, was ever ſo deeply affected. Gloceſter was obſerved to poſſeſs united the good qualities of both his brothers; the clear judgment and penetration of the king, the induſtry and application of the duke of York: he was alſo believed to be affectionate to the religion and conſtitution of his country. He was but twenty years of age when the ſmall-pox put an end to his life.

The princeſs of Orange, having come to England in order to partake of the joy attending the reſtoration of her family, with whom ſhe lived in great friendſhip, ſoon after ſickened and died. The queen-mother paid a viſit to her ſon, and obtained his conſent to the marriage of the princeſs Henrietta with the duke of Orleans, brother to the French king.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

After a receſs of near two months the parliament met, and proceeded in the great work of the national ſettlement. They

eſtabliſhed the poſt office, wine licenſes, and ſome articles of the revenue. They granted more aſſeſſments, and ſome arrears, for paying and diſbanding the army. Buſineſs, being carried on with great unanimity, was ſoon diſpatched; and, after they had ſitten near two months, the king, in a ſpeech full of the moſt gracious expreſſions, thought proper to diſſolve them.

This houſe of commons had been choſen during the reign of the old parliamentary party; and, though many royaliſts had creeped in amongſt them, yet did it chiefly conſiſt of preſbyterians, who had not yet entirely laid aſide their old jealouſies and principles. Lenthal, a member, having ſaid that thoſe who firſt took arms againſt the king were as guilty as thoſe who afterwards brought him to the ſcaffold, was ſeverely reprimanded by order of the houſe; and the moſt violent efforts of the long parliament, to ſecure the conſtitution and bring delinquents to juſtice, were in effect vindicated and applauded.[s] The claim of the two houſes to the militia, the firſt ground of the quarrel, however exorbitant an uſurpation, was never expreſsly reſigned by this parliament. They made all grants of money with a very ſparing hand. Great arrears being due by the protector to the fleet, the army, the navy office, and every branch of ſervice; this whole debt they threw upon the crown, without eſtabliſhing funds ſufficient for its payment. Yet, notwithſtanding this jealous care, expreſſed by the parliament, there prevails a ſtory that Popham, having ſounded the diſpoſition of the members, undertook to the earl of Southampton to procure, during the king's life, a grant of two millions a year land tax; a ſum which, added to the cuſtoms and exciſe, would for ever have rendered this prince independent of his people. Southampton, it is ſaid, merely from his affection to the king, had unwarily embraced the offer; and it was not till he communicated the matter to the chancellor that he was made ſenſible of its pernicious ten-

dency.' It is not improbable that ſuch an offer might have been made, and been hearkened to; but it is nowiſe probable that all the intereſt of the court would ever, with this houſe of commons, have been able to make it effectual. Clarendon ſhewed his prudence, no leſs than his integrity, in entirely rejecting it.

The chancellor, from the ſame principles of conduct, haſtened to diſband the army. When the king reviewed theſe veteran troops he was ſtruck with their beauty, order, diſcipline, and martial appearance; and, being ſenſible that regular forces are moſt neceſſary implements of royalty, he expreſſed a deſire of finding expedients ſtill to retain them. But his wiſe miniſter ſet before him the dangerous ſpirit by which theſe troops were actuated, their enthuſiaſtic genius, their habits of rebellion and mutiny; and he convinced the king that till they were diſbanded he never could eſteem himſelf ſecurely eſtabliſhed on his throne. No more troops were retained than a few guards and garriſons, about one thouſand horſe and four thouſand foot. This was the firſt appearance, under the monarchy, of a regular ſtanding army in this iſland. Lord Mordaunt ſaid that the king, being poſſeſſed of that force, might now look upon himſelf as the moſt conſiderable gentleman in England.' The fortifications of Gloceſter, Taunton, and other towns, which had made reſiſtance to the king during the civil wars, were demoliſhed.

Clarendon not only behaved with wiſdom and juſtice in the office of chancellor; all the counſels which he gave the king tended equally to promote the intereſt of prince and people. Charles, accuſtomed in his exile to pay entire deference to the judgment of this faithful ſervant, continued ſtill to ſubmit to his direction; and for ſome time no miniſter was ever poſſeſſed of more abſolute authority. He moderated the forward zeal of the royaliſts, and tempered their appetite for revenge. With

the oppoſite party he endeavoured to preſerve inviolate all the king's engagements: he kept an exact regiſter of the promiſes which had been made for any ſervice, and he employed all his induſtry to fulfil them. This good miniſter was now nearly allied to the royal family. His daughter, Ann Hyde, a woman of ſpirit and fine accompliſhments, had hearkened, while abroad, to the addreſſes of the duke of York, and, under promiſe of marriage, had ſecretly admitted him to her bed. Her pregnancy appeared ſoon after the reſtoration; and, though many endeavoured to diſſuade the king from conſenting to ſo unequal an alliance, Charles, in pity to his friend and miniſter, who had been ignorant of theſe engagements, permitted his brother to marry her.[u] Clarendon expreſſed great uneaſineſs at the honour which he had obtained; and ſaid that, by being elevated ſo much above his rank, he thence dreaded a more ſudden downfal.

PRELACY RESTORED.

Most circumſtances of Clarendon's adminiſtration have met with applauſe: his maxims alone in the conduct of eccleſiaſtical politics have by many been deemed the effect of prejudices narrow and bigoted. Had the jealouſy of royal power prevailed ſo far with the convention parliament, as to make them reſtore the king with ſtrict limitations, there is no queſtion but the eſtabliſhment of preſbyterian diſcipline had been one of the conditions moſt rigidly inſiſted on. Not only that form of eccleſiaſtical government is more favourable to liberty than to royal power; it was likewiſe, on its own account, agreeable to the majority of the houſe of commons, and ſuited their religious principles. But, as the impatience of the people, the danger of delay, the general diſguſt towards faction, and the authority of Monk, had prevailed over that jealous project of limitations, the full ſettle-

ment of the hierarchy, together with the monarchy, was a neceſſary and infallible conſequence. All the royaliſts were zealous for that mode of religion; the merits of the epiſcopal clergy towards the king, as well as their ſufferings on that account, had been great; the laws which eſtabliſhed biſhops and the liturgy were as yet unrepealed by legal authority; and any attempt of the parliament, by new acts, to give the ſuperiority to preſbyterianiſm, had been ſufficient to involve the nation again in blood and confuſion. Moved by theſe views, the commons had wiſely poſtponed the examination of all religious controverſy, and had left the ſettlement of the church to the king and to the ancient laws.

The king at firſt uſed great moderation in the execution of the laws. Nine biſhops ſtill remained alive, and theſe were immediately reſtored to their ſees; all the ejected clergy recovered their livings; the liturgy, a form of worſhip decent, and not without beauty, was again admitted into the churches; but at the ſame time a declaration was iſſued, in order to give contentment to the preſbyterians, and preſerve an air of moderation and neutrality.* In this declaration the king promiſed that he would provide ſuffragan biſhops for the larger dioceſes; that the prelates ſhould, all of them, be regular and conſtant preachers; that they ſhould not confer ordination, or exerciſe any juriſdiction, without the advice and aſſiſtance of preſbyters, choſen by the dioceſe; that ſuch alterations ſhould be made in the liturgy as would render it totally unexceptionable; that, in the mean time, the uſe of that mode of worſhip ſhould not be impoſed on ſuch as were unwilling to receive it; and that the ſurplice, the croſs in baptiſm, and bowing at the name of Jeſus, ſhould not be rigidly inſiſted on. This declaration was iſſued by the king as head of the church; and he plainly aſſumed, in many parts of it, a legiſlative authority in eccleſiaſtical matters.

But the Engliſh government, though more exactly defined by late conteſts, was not as yet reduced, in every particular, to the ſtrict limits of law. And, if ever prerogative was juſtifiably employed, it ſeemed to be on the preſent occaſion, when all parts of the ſtate were torn with paſt convulſions, and required the moderating hand of the chief magiſtrate to reduce them to their ancient order.

INSURRECTION OF THE MILLENARIANS.

But, though theſe appearances of neutrality were maintained, and a mitigated epiſcopacy only ſeemed to be inſiſted on, it was far from the intention of the miniſtry always to preſerve like regard to the preſbyterians. The madneſs of the fifth-monarchymen afforded them a pretence for departing from it. Venner, a deſperate enthuſiaſt, who had often conſpired againſt Cromwell, having, by his zealous lectures, inflamed his own imagination and that of his followers, iſſued forth at their head into the ſtreets of London. They were to the number of ſixty, completely armed, believed themſelves invulnerable and invincible, and firmly expected the ſame ſucceſs which had attended Gideon and other heroes of the Old Teſtament. Every one at firſt fled before them. One unhappy man, who, being queſtioned, ſaid he was for God and king Charles, was inſtantly murdered by them. They went triumphantly from ſtreet to ſtreet, every where proclaiming king Jeſus, who, they ſaid, was their inviſible leader. At length the magiſtrates, having aſſembled ſome train-bands, made an attack upon them. They defended themſelves with order, as well as valour; and, after killing many of the aſſailants, they made a regular retreat into Cane Wood, near Hampſtead. Next morning they were chaſed thence by a detachment of the guards; but they ventured again to invade the

city, which was not prepared to receive them. After committing great diſorder, and traverſing almoſt every ſtreet of that immenſe capital, they retired into a houſe, which they were reſolute to defend to the laſt extremity. Being ſurrounded, and the houſe untiled, they were fired upon from every ſide; and they ſtill refuſed quarter. The people ruſhed in upon them, and ſeized the few who were alive. Theſe were tried, condemned, and executed; and to the laſt they perſiſted in affirming that, if they were deceived, it was the Lord that had deceived them.

Clarendon and the miniſtry took occaſion, from this inſurrection, to infer the dangerous ſpirit of the preſbyterians, and of all the ſectaries; but the madneſs of the attempt ſufficiently proved that it had been undertaken by no concert, and never could have proved dangerous. The well known hatred, too, which prevailed between the preſbyterians and the other ſects, ſhould have removed the former from all ſuſpicion of any concurrence in the enterpriſe. But, as a pretence was wanted, beſides their old demerits, for juſtifying the intended rigours againſt all of them, this reaſon, however ſlight, was greedily laid hold of.

AFFAIRS OF SCOTLAND.

Affairs in Scotland haſtened with ſtill quicker ſteps than thoſe in England towards a ſettlement and a compliance with the king. It was deliberated in the Engliſh council whether that nation ſhould be reſtored to its liberty, or whether the forts erected by Cromwell ſhould not ſtill be upheld, in order to curb the mutinous ſpirit by which the Scots in all ages had been ſo much governed. Lauderdale, who, from the battle of Worceſter to the reſtoration, had been detained priſoner in the tower, had conſiderable influence with the king, and he ſtrenuouſly oppoſed

this violent meaſure. He repreſented that it was the loyalty of the Scottiſh nation which had engaged them in an oppoſition to the Engliſh rebels; and to take advantage of the calamities into which, on that account, they had fallen, would be regarded as the higheſt injuſtice and ingratitude: that the ſpirit of that people was now fully ſubdued by the ſervitude under which the uſurpers had ſo long held them, and would of itſelf yield to any reaſonable compliance with their legal ſovereign, if by this means they recovered their liberty and independence: that the attachment of the Scots towards the king, whom they regarded as their native prince, was naturally much ſtronger than that of the Engliſh, and would afford him a ſure reſource in caſe of any rebellion among the latter: that republican principles had long been, and ſtill were, very prevalent with his ſouthern ſubjects, and might again menace the throne with new tumults and reſiſtance: that the time would probably come when the king, inſtead of deſiring to ſee Engliſh garriſons in Scotland, would be better pleaſed to have Scottiſh garriſons in England, who, ſupported by Engliſh pay, would be fond to curb the ſeditious genius of that opulent nation: and that a people, ſuch as the Scots, governed by a few nobility, would more eaſily be reduced to ſubmiſſion under monarchy, than one like the Engliſh, who breathed nothing but the ſpirit of democratical equality.

Theſe views induced the king to diſband all the forces in Scotland, and to raze all the forts which had been erected. General Middleton, created earl of that name, was ſent commiſſioner to the parliament, which was ſummoned. A very compliant ſpirit was there diſcovered in all orders of men. The commiſſioner had even ſufficient influence to obtain an act, annulling at once all laws which had paſſed ſince the year 1633, on pretext of the violence which during that time had been

employed againſt the king and his father, in order to procure their aſſent to theſe ſtatutes. This was a very large, if not an unexampled, conceſſion; and, together with many dangerous limitations, overthrew ſome uſeful barriers which had been erected to the conſtitution. But the tide was now running ſtrongly towards monarchy; and the Scottiſh nation plainly diſcovered that their paſt reſiſtance had proceeded more from the turbulence of their ariſtocracy, and the bigotry of their eccleſiaſtics, than from any fixed paſſion towards civil liberty. The lords of articles were reſtored, with ſome other branches of prerogative; and royal authority, fortified with more plauſible claims and pretences, was, in its full extent, re-eſtabliſhed in that kingdom.

The prelacy likewiſe, by the abrogating of every ſtatute enacted in favour of preſbytery, was thereby tacitly reſtored; and the king deliberated what uſe he ſhould make of this conceſſion. Lauderdale, who at bottom was a paſſionate zealot againſt epiſcopacy, endeavoured to perſuade him that the Scots, if gratified in this favourite point of eccleſiaſtical government, would in every other demand be entirely compliant with the king. Charles, though he had no ſuch attachment to prelacy as had influenced his father and grandfather, had ſuffered ſuch indignities from the Scottiſh preſbyterians, that he ever after bore them a hearty averſion. He ſaid to Lauderdale that preſbyterianiſm, he thought, was not a religion for a gentleman; and he could not conſent to its farther continuance in Scotland. Middleton too, and his other miniſters, perſuaded him that the nation in general was ſo diſguſted with the violence and tyranny of the eccleſiaſtics, that any alteration of church government would be univerſally grateful. And Clarendon, as well as Ormond, dreading that the preſbyterian ſect, if legally eſtabliſhed in Scotland, would acquire authority in England

and Ireland, ſeconded the application of theſe miniſters. The reſolution was therefore taken to reſtore prelacy; a meaſure afterwards attended with many and great inconveniencies: but, whether in this reſolution Charles choſe not the leſſer evil, it is very difficult to determine. Sharp, who had been commiſſioned by the preſbyterians in Scotland to manage their intereſts with the king, was perſuaded to abandon that party; and, as a reward for his compliance, was created archbiſhop of St. Andrews. The conduct of eccleſiaſtical affairs was chiefly intruſted to him; and, as he was eſteemed a traitor and a renegade by his old friends, he became on that account, as well as from the violence of his conduct, extremely obnoxious to them.

Charles had not promiſed to Scotland any ſuch indemnity as he had enſured to England by the declaration of Breda; and it was deemed more political for him to hold over men's heads, for ſome time, the terror of puniſhment, till they ſhould have made the requiſite compliances with the new government. Though neither the king's temper nor plan of adminiſtration led him to ſeverity, ſome examples, after ſuch a bloody and triumphant rebellion, ſeemed neceſſary; and the marquis of Argyle and one Guthry were pitched on as the victims. Two acts of indemnity, one paſſed by the late king in 1641, another by the preſent in 1651, formed, it was thought, invincible obſtacles to the puniſhment of Argyle; and barred all inquiry into that part of his conduct which might juſtly be regarded as the moſt exceptionable. Nothing remained but to try him for his compliance with the uſurpation; a crime common to him with the whole nation, and ſuch a one as the moſt loyal and affectionate ſubject might frequently by violence be obliged to commit. To make this compliance appear the more voluntary and hearty, there were produced in court letters which he had

written to Albemarle while that general commanded in Scotland, and which contained expreſſions of the moſt cordial attachment to the eſtabliſhed government. But, beſides the general indignation excited by Albemarle's diſcovery of this private correſpondence, men thought that even the higheſt demonſtrations of affection might, during jealous times, be exacted as a neceſſary mark of compliance from a perſon of ſuch diſtinction as Argyle, and could not, by any equitable conſtruction, imply the crime of treaſon. The parliament, however, ſcrupled not to paſs ſentence upon him; and he died with great conſtancy and courage. As he was univerſally known to have been the chief inſtrument of the paſt diſorders and civil wars, the irregularity of his ſentence, and ſeveral iniquitous circumſtances in the method of conducting his trial, ſeemed, on that account, to admit of ſome apology. Lord Lorne, ſon of Argyle, having ever preſerved his loyalty, obtained a gift of the forfeiture. Guthry was a ſeditious preacher, and had perſonally affronted the king; his puniſhment gave ſurpriſe to no body. Sir Archibald Johnſtone of Warriſton was attainted and fled; but was ſeized in France about two years after, brought over, and executed. He had been very active during all the late diſorders, and was even ſuſpected of a ſecret correſpondence with the Engliſh regicides.

Beſides theſe inſtances of compliances in the Scottiſh parliament, they voted an additional revenue to the king of forty thouſand pounds a year, to be levied by way of exciſe. A ſmall force was purpoſed to be maintained by this revenue, in order to prevent like confuſions with thoſe to which the kingdom had been hitherto expoſed. An act was alſo paſſed, declaring the covenant unlawful, and its obligation void and null.

CONFERENCE AT THE SAVOY. 1661.

In England the civil diſtinctions ſeemed to be aboliſhed by the lenity and equality of Charles's adminiſtration. Cavalier and Roundhead were heard of no more: all men ſeemed to concur in ſubmitting to the king's lawful prerogatives, and in cheriſhing the juſt privileges of the people and of parliament. Theological controverſy alone ſtill ſubſiſted, and kept alive ſome ſparks of that flame which had thrown the nation into combuſtion. While catholics, independents, and other ſectaries, were content with entertaining ſome proſpect of toleration, prelacy and preſbytery ſtruggled for the ſuperiority, and the hopes and fears of both parties kept them in agitation. A conference was held in the Savoy between twelve biſhops and twelve leaders among the preſbyterian miniſters, with an intention, at leaſt on pretence, of bringing about an accommodation between the parties. The ſurplice, the croſs in baptiſm, the kneeling at the ſacrament, the bowing at the name of Jeſus, were anew canvaſſed; and the ignorant multitude were in hopes that ſo many men of gravity and learning could not fail, after deliberate argumentation, to agree in all points of controverſy: they were ſurpriſed to ſee them ſeparate more inflamed than ever, and more confirmed in their ſeveral prejudices. To enter into particulars would be ſuperfluous. Diſputes concerning religious forms are in themſelves the moſt frivolous of any, and merit attention only ſo far as they have influence on the peace and order of civil ſociety.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST A COMPREHENSION.

The king's declaration had promiſed that ſome endeavours ſhould be uſed to effect a comprehenſion of both parties; and

Charles's own indifference with regard to all ſuch queſtions ſeemed a favourable circumſtance for the execution of that project. The partiſans of a comprehenſion ſaid that the preſbyterians, as well as the prelatiſts, having felt by experience the fatal effects of obſtinacy and violence, were now well diſpoſed towards an amicable agreement; that the biſhops, by relinquiſhing ſome part of their authority, and diſpenſing with the moſt exceptionable ceremonies, would ſo gratify their adverſaries as to obtain their cordial and affectionate compliance, and unite the whole nation in one faith and one worſhip; that by obſtinately inſiſting on forms, in themſelves inſignificant, an air of importance was beſtowed on them, and men were taught to continue equally obſtinate in rejecting them; that the preſbyterian clergy would go every reaſonable length, rather than, by parting with their livings, expoſe themſelves to a ſtate of beggary, at beſt of dependance; and that, if their pride were flattered by ſome ſeeming alterations, and a pretence given them for affirming that they had not abandoned their former principles, nothing farther was wanting to produce a thorough union between thoſe two parties, which comprehended the bulk of the nation.

It was alleged, on the other hand, that the difference between religious ſects was founded, not on principle, but on paſſion; and, till the irregular affections of men could be corrected, it was in vain to expect by compliances to obtain a perfect unanimity and comprehenſion: that the more inſignificant the objects of diſpute appeared, with the more certainty might it be inferred that the real ground of diſſenſion was different from that which was univerſally pretended: that the love of novelty, the pride of argumentation, the pleaſure of making proſelytes, and the obſtinacy of contradiction, would for ever give riſe to ſects and diſputes; nor was it poſſible that ſuch a ſource of

diſſenſion could ever, by any conceſſions, be entirely exhauſted: that the church, by departing from ancient practices and principles, would tacitly acknowledge herſelf guilty of error, and loſe that reverence ſo requiſite for preſerving the attachment of the multitude: and that, if the preſent conceſſions (which was more than probable) ſhould prove ineffectual, greater muſt ſtill be made; and, in the iſſue, diſcipline would be deſpoiled of all its authority, and worſhip of all its decency, without obtaining that end which had been ſo fondly ſought for by theſe dangerous indulgences.

A NEW PARLIAMENT.

THE miniſtry were inclined to give the preference to the latter arguments; and were the more confirmed in that intention by the diſpoſition which appeared in the parliament lately aſſembled. The royaliſts and zealous churchmen were at preſent the popular party in the nation, and, ſeconded by the efforts of the court, had prevailed in moſt elections. Not more than fifty-ſix members of the preſbyterian party had obtained ſeats in the lower houſe;[x] and theſe were not able either to oppoſe or retard the meaſures of the majority. Monarchy, therefore, and epiſcopacy, were now exalted to as great power and ſplendour as they had lately ſuffered miſery and depreſſion. Sir Edward Turner was choſen ſpeaker.

An act was paſſed for the ſecurity of the king's perſon and government. To intend or deviſe the king's impriſonment, or bodily harm, or depoſition, or levying war againſt him, was declared, during the lifetime of his preſent majeſty, to be high treaſon. To affirm him to be a papiſt or heretic, or to endeavour by ſpeech or writing to alienate his ſubjects' affections from him; theſe offences were made ſufficient to incapacitate the

perſon guilty from holding any employment in church or ſtate. To maintain that the long parliament is not diſſolved; or that either or both houſes, without the king, are poſſeſſed of legiſlative authority; or that the covenant is binding; was made puniſhable by the penalty of premunire.

The covenant itſelf, together with the act for erecting the high court of juſtice, that for ſubſcribing the engagement, and that for declaring England a commonwealth, were ordered to be burnt by the hands of the hangman. The people aſſiſted with great alacrity on this occaſion.

The abuſes of petitioning in the preceding reign had been attended with the worſt conſequences; and, to prevent ſuch irregular practices for the future, it was enacted that no more than twenty hands ſhould be fixed to any petition, unleſs with the ſanction of three juſtices, or the major part of the grand jury; and that no petition ſhould be preſented to the king or either houſe by above ten perſons. The penalty annexed to a tranſgreſſion of this law was a fine of a hundred pounds and three months impriſonment.

BISHOPS' SEATS RESTORED.

The biſhops, though reſtored to their ſpiritual authority, were ſtill excluded from parliament by the law which the late king had paſſed immediately before the commencement of the civil diſorders. Great violence, both againſt the king and the houſe of peers, had been employed in paſſing this law; and on that account alone the partiſans of the church were provided with a plauſible pretence for repealing it. Charles expreſſed much ſatisfaction when he gave his aſſent to the act for that purpoſe. It is certain that the authority of the crown, as well as that of the church, was intereſted in reſtoring the prelates to their

former dignity: but thoſe, who deemed every acquiſition of the prince a detriment to the people, were apt to complain of this inſtance of complaiſance in the parliament.

After an adjournment of ſome months the parliament was again aſſembled, and proceeded in the ſame ſpirit as before. They diſcovered no deſign of reſtoring, in its full extent, the ancient prerogative of the crown; they were only anxious to repair all thoſe breaches which had been made, not by the love of liberty, but by the fury of faction and civil war. The power of the ſword had, in all ages, been allowed to be veſted in the crown; and, though no law conferred this prerogative, every parliament, till the laſt of the preceding reign, had willingly ſubmitted to an authority more ancient, and therefore more ſacred, than that of any poſitive ſtatute. It was now thought proper ſolemnly to relinquiſh the violent pretenſions of that parliament, and to acknowledge that neither one houſe nor both houſes, independent of the king, were poſſeſſed of any military authority. The preamble to this ſtatute went ſo far as to renounce all right even of defenſive arms againſt the king; and much obſervation has been made with regard to a conceſſion eſteemed ſo ſingular. Were theſe terms taken in their full literal ſenſe, they imply a total renunciation of limitations to monarchy, and of all privileges in the ſubject independent of the will of the ſovereign; for, as no rights can ſubſiſt without ſome remedy, ſtill leſs rights expoſed to ſo much invaſion from tyranny, or even from ambition; if ſubjects muſt never reſiſt, it follows that every prince, without any effort, policy, or violence, is at once rendered abſolute and uncontrollable: the ſovereign needs only iſſue an edict, aboliſhing every authority but his own; and all liberty, from that moment, is in effect annihilated. But this meaning it were abſurd to impute to the preſent parliament, who, though zealous royaliſts, ſhewed in

their meaſures that they had not caſt off all regard to national privileges. They were probably ſenſible that to ſuppoſe in the ſovereign any ſuch invaſion of public liberty is entirely unconſtitutional; and that therefore expreſsly to reſerve, upon that event, any right of reſiſtance in the ſubject muſt be liable to the ſame objection. They had ſeen that the long parliament, under colour of defence, had begun a violent attack upon kingly power; and, after involving the kingdom in blood, had finally loſt that liberty for which they had ſo imprudently contended. They thought, perhaps erroneouſly, that it was no longer poſſible, after ſuch public and ſuch exorbitant pretenſions, to perſevere in that prudent ſilence hitherto maintained by the laws; and that it was neceſſary, by ſome poſitive declaration, to bar the return of like inconveniencies. When they excluded, therefore, the right of defence, they ſuppoſed that, the conſtitution remaining firm upon its baſis, there never really could be an attack made by the ſovereign. If ſuch an attack was at any time made, the neceſſity was then extreme; and the caſe of extreme and violent neceſſity no laws, they thought, could comprehend, becauſe to ſuch a neceſſity no laws could beforehand point out a proper remedy.

CORPORATION ACT.

THE other meaſures of this parliament ſtill diſcovered a more anxious care to guard againſt rebellion in the ſubject than encroachments in the crown: the recent evils of civil war and uſurpation had naturally increaſed the ſpirit of ſubmiſſion to the monarch, and had thrown the nation into that dangerous extreme. During the violent and jealous government of the parliament and of the protectors, all magiſtrates, liable to ſuſpicion, had been expelled the corporations; and none had been ad-

mitted who gave not proofs of affection to the ruling powers, or who refuſed to ſubſcribe the covenant. To leave all authority in ſuch hands ſeemed dangerous; and the parliament therefore empowered the king to appoint commiſſioners for regulating the corporations, and expelling ſuch magiſtrates as either intruded themſelves by violence, or profeſſed principles dangerous to the conſtitution, civil and eccleſiaſtical. It was alſo enacted that all magiſtrates ſhould diſclaim the obligation of the covenant, and ſhould declare both their belief that it was not lawful, upon any pretence whatſoever, to reſiſt the king, and their abhorrence of the traitorous poſition of taking arms by the king's authority againſt his perſon, or againſt thoſe who were commiſſioned by him.

ACT OF UNIFORMITY. 1662.

THE care of the church was no leſs attended to by this parliament than that of monarchy; and the bill of uniformity was a pledge of their ſincere attachment to the epiſcopal hierarchy, and of their antipathy to preſbyterianiſm. Different parties, however, concurred in promoting this bill, which contained many ſevere clauſes. The independents and other ſectaries, enraged to find all their ſchemes ſubverted by the preſbyterians, who had once been their aſſociates, exerted themſelves to diſappoint that party of the favour and indulgence to which, from their recent merits in promoting the reſtoration, they thought themſelves juſtly entitled. By the preſbyterians, ſaid they, the war was raiſed; by them was the populace firſt incited to tumults; by their zeal, intereſt, and riches, were the armies ſupported; by their force was the king ſubdued; and if, in the ſequel, they proteſted againſt thoſe extreme violences committed on his perſon by the military leaders, their oppoſition came

too late, after having ſupplied theſe uſurpers with the power and the pretences by which they maintained their ſanguinary meaſures. They had indeed concurred with the royaliſts in recalling the king: but ought they to be eſteemed, on that account, more affectionate to the royal cauſe? Rage and animoſity, from diſappointed ambition, were plainly their ſole motives; and, if the king ſhould now be ſo imprudent as to diſtinguiſh them by any particular indulgences, he would ſoon experience from them the ſame hatred and oppoſition which had proved ſo fatal to his father.

The catholics, though they had little intereſt in the nation, were a conſiderable party at court; and, from their ſervices and ſufferings during the civil wars, it ſeemed but juſt to bear them ſome favour and regard. Theſe religioniſts dreaded an entire union among the proteſtants. Were they the ſole nonconformiſts in the nation, the ſevere execution of penal laws upon their ſect ſeemed an infallible conſequence; and they uſed, therefore, all their intereſt to puſh matters to extremity againſt the preſbyterians, who had formerly been their moſt ſevere oppreſſors, and whom they now expected for their companions in affliction. The earl of Briſtol, who, from conviction, or intereſt, or levity, or complaiſance for the company with whom he lived, had changed his religion during the king's exile, was regarded as the head of this party.

The church party had, during ſo many years, ſuffered ſuch injuries and indignities from the ſectaries of every denomination, that no moderation, much leſs deference, was on this occaſion to be expected in the eccleſiaſtics: even the laity of that communion ſeemed now diſpoſed to retaliate upon their enemies, according to the uſual meaſures of party juſtice. This ſect or faction (for it partook of both) encouraged the rumours of plots and conſpiracies againſt the government; crimes which,

without any apparent reaſon, they imputed to their adverſaries. And, inſtead of enlarging the terms of communion, in order to comprehend the preſbyterians, they gladly laid hold of the prejudices which prevailed among that ſect, in order to eject them from their livings. By the bill of uniformity it was required that every clergyman ſhould be re-ordained, if he had not before received epiſcopal ordination; ſhould declare his aſſent to every thing contained in the Book of Common Prayer; ſhould take the oath of canonical obedience; ſhould abjure the ſolemn league and covenant; and ſhould renounce the principle of taking arms, on any pretence whatſoever, againſt the king.

This bill reinſtated the church in the ſame condition in which it ſtood before the commencement of the civil wars; and, as the old perſecuting laws of Elizabeth ſtill ſubſiſted in their full rigour, and new clauſes of a like nature were now enacted, all the king's promiſes of toleration and of indulgence to tender conſciences were thereby eluded and broken. It is true Charles, in his declaration from Breda, had expreſſed his intention of regulating that indulgence by the advice and authority of parliament; but this limitation could never reaſonably be extended to a total infringement and violation of his engagements. However, it is agreed that the king did not voluntarily concur with this violent meaſure, and that the zeal of Clarendon and of the church party among the commons, ſeconded by the intrigues of the catholics, was the chief cauſe which extorted his conſent.

The royaliſts, who now predominated, were very ready to ſignalize their victory by eſtabliſhing thoſe high principles of monarchy which their antagoniſts had controverted: but, when any real power or revenue was demanded for the crown, they were neither ſo forward nor ſo liberal in their conceſſions as the king would gladly have wiſhed. Though the parliament paſſed laws for regulating the navy, they took no notice of the army,

and declined giving their ſanction to this dangerous innovation. The king's debts were become intolerable; and the commons were at laſt conſtrained to vote him an extraordinary ſupply of one million two hundred thouſand pounds, to be levied by eighteen monthly aſſeſſments. But, beſides that this ſupply was much inferior to the occaſion, the king was obliged earneſtly to ſolicit the commons before he could obtain it; and, in order to convince the houſe of its abſolute neceſſity, he deſired them to examine ſtrictly into all his receipts and diſburſements. Finding likewiſe, upon inquiry, that the ſeveral branches of revenue fell much ſhort of the ſums expected, they at laſt, after much delay, voted a new impoſition of two ſhillings on each hearth; and this tax they ſettled on the king during life. The whole eſtabliſhed revenue, however, did not, for many years, exceed a million;[r] a ſum confeſſedly too narrow for the public expenſes; a very rigid frugality at leaſt, which the king ſeems to have wanted, would have been requiſite to make it ſuffice for the dignity and ſecurity of government. After all buſineſs was diſpatched the parliament was prorogued.

KING'S MARRIAGE.

Before the parliament roſe the court was employed in making preparations for the reception of the new queen, Catherine of Portugal, to whom the king was betrothed, and who had juſt landed at Portſmouth. During the time that the protector carried on the war with Spain he was naturally led to ſupport the Portugueſe in their revolt; and he engaged himſelf by treaty to ſupply them with ten thouſand men for their defence againſt the Spaniards. On the king's reſtoration advances were made by Portugal for the renewal of the alliance; and, in order to bind the friendſhip cloſer, an offer was made of the Portugueſe

princeſs, and a portion of five hundred thouſand pounds, together with two fortreſſes, Tangiers in Africa and Bombay in the Eaſt Indies. Spain, who, after the peace of the Pyrenees, bent all her force to recover Portugal, now in appearance abandoned by France, took the alarm, and endeavoured to fix Charles in an oppoſite intereſt. The catholic king offered to adopt any other princeſs as a daughter of Spain, either the princeſs of Parma, or, what he thought more popular, ſome proteſtant princeſs, the daughter of Denmark, Saxony, or Orange; and on any of theſe he promiſed to confer a dowry equal to that which was offered by Portugal. But many reaſons inclined Charles rather to accept of the Portugueſe propoſals. The great diſorders in the government and finances of Spain made the execution of her promiſes be much doubted; and the king's urgent neceſſities demanded ſome immediate ſupply of money. The intereſt of the Engliſh commerce likewiſe ſeemed to require that the independency of Portugal ſhould be ſupported, leſt the union of that crown with Spain ſhould put the whole treaſures of America into the hands of one potentate. The claims too of Spain upon Dunkirk and Jamaica rendered it impoſſible, without farther conceſſions, to obtain the cordial friendſhip of that power: and, on the other hand, the offer made by Portugal, of two ſuch conſiderable fortreſſes, promiſed a great acceſſion to the naval force of England. Above all, the propoſal of a proteſtant princeſs was no allurement to Charles, whoſe inclinations led him ſtrongly to give the preference to a catholic alliance. According to the moſt probable accounts,* the reſolution of marrying the daughter of Portugal was taken by the king unknown to all his miniſters; and no remonſtrances could prevail with him to alter his intentions. When the matter was laid before the council all voices concurred in approving the reſolution, and the parliament expreſſed the ſame complaiſance. And thus was concluded, ſeem-

ingly with univerſal conſent, the inauſpicious marriage with Catherine, a princeſs of virtue, but who was never able, either by the graces of her perſon or humour, to make herſelf agreeable to the king. The report, however, of her natural incapacity to have children, ſeems to have been groundleſs, ſince ſhe was twice declared to be pregnant.[a]

The feſtivity of theſe eſpouſals was clouded by the trial and execution of criminals. Berkſtead, Cobbet, and Okey, three regicides, had eſcaped beyond ſea; and, after wandering ſome time concealed in Germany, came privately to Delft, having appointed their families to meet them in that place. They were diſcovered by Downing, the king's reſident in Holland, who had formerly ſerved the protector and commonwealth in the ſame ſtation, and who once had even been chaplain to Okey's regiment. He applied for a warrant to arreſt them. It had been uſual for the States to grant theſe warrants; though, at the ſame time, they had ever been careful ſecretly to advertiſe the perſons, that they might be enabled to make their eſcape. This precaution was eluded by the vigilance and diſpatch of Downing. He quickly ſeized the criminals, hurried them on board a frigate which lay off the coaſt, and ſent them to England. Theſe three men behaved with more moderation and ſubmiſſion than any of the other regicides who had ſuffered. Okey in particular, at the place of execution, prayed for the king, and expreſſed his intention, had he lived, of ſubmitting peaceably to the eſtabliſhed government. He had riſen during the wars from being a chandler in London to a high rank in the army, and in all his conduct appeared to be a man of humanity and honour. In conſideration of his good character, and of his dutiful behaviour, his body was given to his friends to be buried.

VANE'S TRIAL.

THE attention of the public was much engaged by the trial of two diſtinguiſhed criminals, Lambert and Vane. Theſe men, though none of the late king's judges, had been excepted from the general indemnity, and committed to priſon. The convention parliament, however, was ſo favourable to them as to petition the king, if they ſhould be found guilty, to ſuſpend their execution: but this new parliament, more zealous for monarchy, applied for their trial and condemnation. Not to revive diſputes, which were better buried in oblivion, the indictment of Vane did not comprehend any of his actions during the war between the king and parliament; it extended only to his behaviour after the late king's death, as member of the council of ſtate and ſecretary of the navy, where fidelity to the truſt repoſed in him required his oppoſition to monarchy.

Vane wanted neither courage nor capacity to avail himſelf of this advantage. He urged that, if a compliance with the government at that time eſtabliſhed in England, and the acknowledging of its authority, were to be regarded as criminal, the whole nation had incurred equal guilt, and none would remain whoſe innocence could entitle them to try or condemn him for his pretended treaſons: that, according to theſe maxims, wherever an illegal authority was eſtabliſhed by force, a total and univerſal deſtruction muſt enſue; while the uſurpers proſcribed one part of the nation for diſobedience the lawful prince puniſhed the other for compliance: that the legiſlature of England, foreſeeing this violent ſituation, had provided for public ſecurity by the famous ſtatute of Henry VII; in which it was enacted that no man, in caſe of any revolution, ſhould ever be queſtioned for his obedience to the king in being:

that, whether the eſtabliſhed government were a monarchy or a commonwealth, the reaſon of the thing was ſtill the ſame; nor ought the expelled prince to think himſelf entitled to allegiance ſo long as he could not afford protection: that it belonged not to private perſons, poſſeſſed of no power, to diſcuſs the title of their governors; and every uſurpation, even the moſt flagrant, would equally require obedience with the moſt legal eſtabliſhment: that the controverſy between the late king and his parliament was of the moſt delicate nature; and men of the greateſt probity had been divided in their choice of the party which they ſhould embrace: that the parliament, being rendered indiſſoluble but by its own conſent, was become a kind of co-ordinate power with the king; and, as the caſe was thus entirely new and unknown to the conſtitution, it ought not to be tried rigidly by the letter of the ancient laws: that, for his part, all the violences which had been put upon the parliament, and upon the perſon of the ſovereign, he had ever condemned; nor had he once appeared in the houſe for ſome time before and after the execution of the king: that, finding the whole government thrown into diſorder, he was ſtill reſolved, in every revolution, to adhere to the commons, the root, the foundation of all lawful authority: that, in proſecution of this principle, he had cheerfully undergone all the violence of Cromwell's tyranny; and would now, with equal alacrity, expoſe himſelf to the rigours of perverted law and juſtice: that, though it was in his power, on the king's reſtoration, to have eſcaped from his enemies, he was determined, in imitation of the moſt illuſtrious names of antiquity, to periſh in defence of liberty, and to give teſtimony with his blood for that honourable cauſe in which he had been inliſted: and that, beſides the ties by which God and nature had bound him to his native country, he was voluntarily engaged by the

moſt ſacred covenant, whoſe obligation no earthly power ſhould ever be able to make him relinquiſh.

EXECUTION OF VANE.

All the defence which Vane could make was fruitleſs. The court, conſidering more the general opinion of his active guilt in the beginning and proſecution of the civil wars than the articles of treaſon charged againſt him, took advantage of the letter of the law, and brought him in guilty. His courage deſerted him not upon his condemnation. Though timid by nature, the perſuaſion of a juſt cauſe ſupported him againſt the terrors of death; while his enthuſiaſm, excited by the proſpect of glory, embelliſhed the concluſion of a life which, through the whole courſe of it, had been ſo much disfigured by the prevalence of that principle. Leſt pity for a courageous ſufferer ſhould make impreſſion on the populace, drummers were placed under the ſcaffold, whoſe noiſe, as he began to launch out in reflections on the government, drowned his voice, and admoniſhed him to temper the ardour of his zeal. He was not aſtoniſhed at this unexpected incident. In all his behaviour there appeared a firm and animated intrepidity; and he conſidered death but as a paſſage to that eternal felicity which he believed to be prepared for him.

This man, ſo celebrated for his parliamentary talents and for his capacity in buſineſs, has left ſome writings behind him; they treat, all of them, of religious ſubjects, and are abſolutely unintelligible; no traces of eloquence, or even of common ſenſe, appear in them. A ſtrange paradox! did we not know that men of the greateſt genius, where they relinquiſh by principle the uſe of their reaſon, are only enabled, by their vigour of mind, to work themſelves the deeper into error and abſurdity. It was

remarkable that, as Vane, by being the chief inſtrument of Strafford's death, had firſt opened the way for that deſtruction which overwhelmed the nation, ſo by his death he cloſed the ſcene of blood. He was the laſt that ſuffered on account of the civil wars. Lambert, though condemned, was reprieved at the bar; and the judges declared that, if Vane's behaviour had been equally dutiful and ſubmiſſive, he would have experienced like lenity in the king. Lambert ſurvived his condemnation near thirty years. He was confined to the iſle of Guernſey, where he lived contented, forgetting all his paſt ſchemes of greatneſs, and entirely forgotten by the nation: he died a Roman catholic.

PRESBYTERIAN CLERGY EJECTED.

However odious Vane and Lambert were to the preſbyterians, that party had no leiſure to rejoice at their condemnation. The fatal St. Bartholomew approached; the day when the clergy were obliged, by the late law, either to relinquiſh their livings or to ſign the articles required of them. A combination had been entered into by the moſt zealous of the preſbyterian eccleſiaſtics to refuſe the ſubſcription, in hopes that the biſhops would not venture at once to expel ſo great a number of the moſt popular preachers. The catholic party at court, who deſired a great rent among the proteſtants, encouraged them in this obſtinacy, and gave them hopes that the king would protect them in their refuſal. The king himſelf, by his irreſolute conduct, contributed, either from deſign or accident, to increaſe this opinion. Above all, the terms of ſubſcription had been made ſtrict and rigid, on purpoſe to diſguſt all the zealous and ſcrupulous among the preſbyterians, and deprive them of their livings. About two thouſand of the clergy in one day relinquiſhed their cures; and,

to the aſtoniſhment of the court, ſacrificed their intereſt to their religious tenets. Fortified by ſociety in their ſufferings, they were reſolved to undergo any hardſhips, rather than openly renounce thoſe principles which on other occaſions they were ſo apt, from intereſt, to warp or elude. The church enjoyed the pleaſure of retaliation; and even puſhed, as uſual, the vengeance farther than the offence. During the dominion of the parliamentary party a fifth of each living had been left to the ejected clergyman; but this indulgence, though at firſt inſiſted on by the houſe of peers, was now refuſed to the preſbyterians. However difficult to conciliate peace among theologians, it was hoped by many that ſome relaxation in the terms of communion might have kept the preſbyterians united to the church, and have cured thoſe eccleſiaſtical factions which had been ſo fatal, and were ſtill ſo dangerous. Biſhoprics were offered to Calamy, Baxter, and Reynolds, leaders among the preſbyterians; the laſt could only be prevailed on to accept. Deaneries and other preferments were refuſed by many.

DUNKIRK SOLD TO THE FRENCH.

The next meaſure of the king has not had the good fortune to be juſtified by any party; but is often conſidered, on what grounds I ſhall not determine, as one of the greateſt miſtakes, if not blemiſhes, of his reign. It is the ſale of Dunkirk to the French. The parſimonious maxims of the parliament, and the liberal, or rather careleſs, diſpoſition of Charles, were ill ſuited to each other; and, notwithſtanding the ſupplies voted him, his treaſury was ſtill very empty and very much indebted. He had ſecretly received the ſum of two hundred thouſand crowns from France for the ſupport of Portugal; but the forces ſent over to that country, and the fleets maintained in order to defend it,

had already coſt the king that ſum; and, together with it, near double the money, which had been paid as the queen's portion.[b] The time fixed for payment of his ſiſter's portion to the duke of Orleans was approaching. Tangiers, a fortreſs from which great benefit was expected, was become an additional burden to the crown; and Rutherford, who now commanded in Dunkirk, had increaſed the charge of that garriſon to a hundred and twenty thouſand pounds a year. Theſe conſiderations had ſuch influence, not only on the king, but even on Clarendon, that this uncorrupt miniſter was the moſt forward to adviſe accepting a ſum of money in lieu of a place which he thought the king, from the narrow ſtate of his revenue, was no longer able to retain. By the treaty with Portugal it was ſtipulated that Dunkirk ſhould never be yielded to the Spaniards; France was therefore the only purchaſer that remained. D'Eſtrades was invited over by a letter from the chancellor himſelf, in order to conclude the bargain. Nine hundred thouſand pounds were demanded; one hundred thouſand were offered. The Engliſh by degrees lowered their demand; the French raiſed their offer; and the bargain was concluded at four hundred thouſand pounds. The artillery and ſtores were valued at a fifth of the ſum.[c] The importance of this ſale was not at that time ſufficiently known, either abroad or at home.[d] The French monarch himſelf, ſo fond of acquiſitions, and ſo good a judge of his own intereſts, thought that he had made a hard bargain;[e] and this ſum, in appearance ſo ſmall, was the utmoſt which he would allow his ambaſſador to offer.

DECLARATION OF INDULGENCE.

A NEW incident diſcovered ſuch a glimpſe of the king's character and principles as, at firſt, the nation was ſomewhat at a

loſs how to interpret; but ſuch as ſubſequent events, by degrees, rendered ſufficiently plain and manifeſt. He iſſued a declaration, on pretence of mitigating the rigours contained in the act of uniformity. After expreſſing his firm reſolution to obſerve the general indemnity, and to truſt entirely to the affections of his ſubjects, not to any military power, for the ſupport of his throne, he mentioned the promiſes of liberty of conſcience contained in his declaration of Breda. And he ſubjoined that, 'as in the firſt place he had been zealous to ſettle the uniformity of the church of England in diſcipline, ceremony, and government, and ſhall ever conſtantly maintain it; ſo as for what concerns the penalties upon thoſe who, living peaceably, do not conform themſelves thereunto, through ſcruple and tenderneſs of miſguided conſcience, but modeſtly and without ſcandal perform their devotions in their own way, he ſhould make it his ſpecial care, ſo far as in him lay, without invading the freedom of parliament, to incline their wiſdom next approaching ſeſſion to concur with him in making ſome ſuch act for that purpoſe as may enable him to exerciſe, with a more univerſal ſatisfaction, that power of diſpenſing' which he conceived to be inherent in him.' Here a moſt important prerogative was exerciſed by the king; but under ſuch artful reſerves and limitations as might prevent the full diſcuſſion of the claim, and obviate a breach between him and his parliament. The foundation of this meaſure lay much deeper, and was of the utmoſt conſequence.

The king, during his exile, had imbibed ſtrong prejudices in favour of the catholic religion; and, according to the moſt probable accounts, had already been ſecretly reconciled in form to the church of Rome. The great zeal, expreſſed by the parliamentary party againſt all papiſts, had always, from a ſpirit of oppoſition, inclined the court, and all the royaliſts, to adopt more favourable ſentiments towards that ſect, which, through

the whole courſe of the civil wars, had ſtrenuouſly ſupported the rights of the ſovereign. The rigour too which the king, during his abode in Scotland, had experienced from the preſbyterians, diſpoſed him to run into the other extreme, and to bear a kindneſs to the party moſt oppoſite in its genius to the ſeverity of thoſe religioniſts. The ſolicitations and importunities of the queen-mother, the contagion of the company which he frequented, the view of a more ſplendid and courtly mode of worſhip, the hopes of indulgence in pleaſure; all theſe cauſes operated powerfully on a young prince, whoſe careleſs and diſſolute temper made him incapable of adhering cloſely to the principles of his early education. But, if the thoughtleſs humour of Charles rendered him an eaſy convert to popery, the ſame diſpoſition ever prevented the theological tenets of that ſect from taking any faſt hold of him. During his vigorous ſtate of health, while his blood was warm and his ſpirits high, a contempt and diſregard to all religion held poſſeſſion of his mind; and he might more properly be denominated a deiſt than a catholic. But, in thoſe revolutions of temper when the love of raillery gave place to reflection, and his penetrating, but negligent, underſtanding was clouded with fears and apprehenſions, he had ſtarts of more ſincere conviction; and a ſect, which always poſſeſſed his inclination, was then maſter of his judgment and opinion.[g]

But, though the king thus fluctuated, during his whole reign, between irreligion, which he more openly profeſſed, and popery, to which he retained a ſecret propenſity, his brother, the duke of York, had zealouſly adopted all the principles of that theological party. His eager temper and narrow underſtanding made him a thorough convert, without any reſerve from intereſt, or doubts from reaſoning and inquiry. By his application to buſineſs he had acquired a great aſcendant over the king, who,

though poſſeſſed of more diſcernment, was glad to throw the burden of affairs on the duke, of whom he entertained little jealouſy. On pretence of eaſing the proteſtant diſſenters, they agreed upon a plan for introducing a general toleration, and giving the catholics the free exerciſe of their religion, at leaſt the exerciſe of it in private houſes. The two brothers ſaw with pleaſure ſo numerous and popular a body of the clergy refuſe conformity; and it was hoped that, under ſhelter of their name, the ſmall and hated ſect of the catholics might meet with favour and protection.

But, while the king pleaded his early promiſes of toleration, and inſiſted on many other plauſible topics, the parliament, who ſat a little after the declaration was iſſued, could by no means be ſatisfied with this meaſure. The declared intention of eaſing the diſſenters, and the ſecret purpoſe of favouring the catholics, were equally diſagreeable to them; and in theſe prepoſſeſſions they were encouraged by the king's miniſters themſelves, particularly the chancellor. The houſe of commons repreſented to the king that his declaration of Breda contained no promiſe to the preſbyterians and other diſſenters, but only an expreſſion of his intentions, upon ſuppoſition of the concurrence of parliament; that, even if the nonconformiſts had been entitled to plead a promiſe, they had intruſted this claim, as all their other rights and privileges, to the houſe of commons, who were their repreſentatives, and who now freed the king from that obligation; that it was not to be ſuppoſed that his majeſty and the houſes were ſo bound by that declaration as to be incapacitated from making any laws which might be contrary to it; that even at the king's reſtoration there were laws of uniformity in force which could not be diſpenſed with but by act of parliament; and that the indulgence intended would prove moſt pernicious both to church and ſtate, would open the door to ſchiſm, en-

courage faction, diſturb the public peace, and diſcredit the wiſdom of the legiſlature. The king did not think proper, after this remonſtrance, to inſiſt any farther at preſent on the project of indulgence.

In order to deprive the catholics of all hopes, the two houſes concurred in a remonſtrance againſt them. The king gave a gracious anſwer; though he ſcrupled not to profeſs his gratitude towards many of that perſuaſion, on account of their faithful ſervices in his father's cauſe and in his own. A proclamation, for form's ſake, was ſoon after iſſued againſt jeſuits and Romiſh prieſts; but care was taken, by the very terms of it, to render it ineffectual. The parliament had allowed that all foreign prieſts, belonging to the two queens, ſhould be excepted, and that a permiſſion for them to remain in England ſhould ſtill be granted. In the proclamation the word 'foreign' was purpoſely omitted; and the queens were thereby authoriſed to give protection to as many Engliſh prieſts as they ſhould think proper.

That the king might reap ſome advantage from his compliances, however fallacious, he engaged the commons anew into an examination of his revenue, which, chiefly by the negligence in levying it, had proved, he ſaid, much inferior to the public charges. Notwithſtanding the price of Dunkirk, his debts, he complained, amounted to a conſiderable ſum; and, to ſatisfy the commons that the money formerly granted him had not been prodigally expended, he offered to lay before them the whole account of his diſburſements. It is, however, agreed on all hands that the king, though during his baniſhment he had managed his ſmall and precarious income with great order and economy, had now much abated of theſe virtues, and was unable to make his royal revenues ſuffice for his expenſes. The commons, without entering into too nice a diſquiſition, voted him four ſubſidies; and this was the laſt time that taxes were levied in that manner.

Several laws were made this ſeſſion with regard to trade. The militia alſo came under conſideration, and ſome rules were eſtabliſhed for ordering and arming it. It was enacted that the king ſhould have no power of keeping the militia under arms above fourteen days in the year. The ſituation of this iſland, together with its great naval power, has always occaſioned other means of ſecurity, however requiſite, to be much neglected amongſt us; and the parliament ſhewed here a very ſuperfluous jealouſy of the king's ſtrictneſs in diſciplining the militia: the principles of liberty rather require a contrary jealouſy.

The earl of Briſtol's friendſhip with Clarendon, which had ſubſiſted with great intimacy during their exile and the diſtreſſes of the royal party, had been conſiderably impaired ſince the reſtoration, by the chancellor's refuſing his aſſent to ſome grants which Briſtol had applied for to a court lady; and a little after the latter nobleman, agreeably to the impetuoſity and indiſcretion of his temper, broke out againſt the miniſter in the moſt outrageous manner. He even entered a charge of treaſon againſt him before the houſe of peers; but had concerted his meaſures ſo imprudently, that the judges, when conſulted, declared that, neither for its matter nor its form, could the charge be legally received. The articles indeed reſemble more the incoherent altercations of a paſſionate enemy than a ſerious accuſation, fit to be diſcuſſed by a court of judicature; and Briſtol himſelf was ſo aſhamed of his conduct and defeat, that he abſconded during ſome time. Notwithſtanding his fine talents, his eloquence, his ſpirit, and his courage, he could never regain the character which he loſt by this haſty and precipitate meaſure.

DECLINE OF CLARENDON'S CREDIT. 1663.

BUT, though Clarendon was able to elude this raſh aſſault, his credit at court was ſenſibly declining; and, in proportion as the king found himſelf eſtabliſhed on the throne, he began to alienate himſelf from a miniſter whoſe character was ſo little ſuited to his own. Charles's favour for the catholics was always oppoſed by Clarendon; public liberty was ſecured againſt all attempts of the over-zealous royaliſts; prodigal grants of the king were checked or refuſed; and the dignity of his own character was ſo much conſulted by the chancellor, that he made it an inviolable rule, as did alſo his friend Southampton, never to enter into any connexion with the royal miſtreſſes. The king's favourite was Mrs. Palmer, afterwards created ducheſs of Cleveland; a woman prodigal, rapacious, diſſolute, violent, revengeful. She failed not, in her turn, to undermine Clarendon's credit with his maſter; and her ſucceſs was at this time made apparent to the whole world. Secretary Nicholas, the chancellor's great friend, was removed from his place; and ſir Harry Bennet, his avowed enemy, was advanced to that office. Bennet was ſoon after created lord Arlington.

Though the king's conduct had hitherto, ſince his reſtoration, been, in the main, laudable, men of penetration began to obſerve that thoſe virtues, by which he had at firſt ſo much dazzled and enchanted the nation, had great ſhew, but not equal ſolidity. His good underſtanding loſt much of its influence by his want of application; his bounty was more the reſult of a facility of diſpoſition than any generoſity of character; his ſocial humour led him frequently to neglect his dignity; his love of pleaſure was not attended with proper ſentiment and decency; and, while he ſeemed to bear a good-will to every one that approached him,

he had a heart not very capable of friendſhip, and he had ſecretly entertained a very bad opinion and diſtruſt of mankind: but, above all, what ſullied his character in the eyes of good judges was his negligent ingratitude towards the unfortunate cavaliers, whoſe zeal and ſufferings in the royal cauſe had known no bounds. This conduct, however, in the king, may, from the circumſtances of his ſituation and temper, admit of ſome excuſe, at leaſt of ſome alleviation. As he had been reſtored more by the efforts of his reconciled enemies than of his ancient friends, the former pretended a title to ſhare his favour; and, being from practice acquainted with public buſineſs, they were better qualified to execute any truſt committed to them. The king's revenues were far from being large, or even equal to his neceſſary expenſes; and his miſtreſſes, and the companions of his mirth and pleaſures, gained, by ſolicitation, every requeſt from his eaſy temper. The very poverty, to which the more zealous royaliſts had reduced themſelves, by rendering them inſignificant, made them unfit to ſupport the king's meaſures, and cauſed him to deem them a uſeleſs incumbrance. And, as many falſe and ridiculous claims of merit were offered, his natural indolence, averſe to a ſtrict diſcuſſion or inquiry, led him to treat them all with equal indifference. The parliament took ſome notice of the poor cavaliers. Sixty thouſand pounds were at one time diſtributed among them. Mrs. Lane alſo, and the Penderells, had handſome preſents and penſions from the king. But the greater part of the royaliſts ſtill remained in poverty and diſtreſs; aggravated by the cruel diſappointment in their ſanguine hopes, and by ſeeing favour and preferment beſtowed upon their moſt inveterate foes. With regard to the act of indemnity and oblivion, they univerſally ſaid that it was an act of indemnity to the king's enemies, and of oblivion to his friends.

CHAPTER LXIV.

CHARLES II.

A NEW SESSION....RUPTURE WITH HOLLAND....A NEW SESSION.... VICTORY OF THE ENGLISH....RUPTURE WITH FRANCE....RUPTURE WITH DENMARK....FIVE-MILE-ACT....SEA-FIGHT OF FOUR DAYS....VICTORY OF THE ENGLISH....FIRE OF LONDON....ADVANCES TOWARDS PEACE....DISGRACE AT CHATHAM....PEACE OF BREDA....CLARENDON'S FALL....AND BANISHMENT....STATE OF FRANCE....CHARACTER OF LEWIS XIV....FRENCH INVASION OF THE LOW COUNTRIES....NEGOCIATIONS....TRIPLE LEAGUE.... TREATY OF AIX-LA-CHAPELLE....AFFAIRS OF SCOTLAND....AND OF IRELAND.

A NEW SESSION. 1664.

THE next ſeſſion of parliament diſcovered a continuance of the ſame principles which had prevailed in all the foregoing. Monarchy and the church were ſtill the objects of regard and affection. During no period of the preſent reign did this ſpirit more evidently paſs the bounds of reaſon and moderation.

The king, in his ſpeech to the parliament, had ventured openly to demand a repeal of the triennial act; and he even went ſo far as to declare that, notwithſtanding the law, he never would allow any parliament to be aſſembled by the methods preſcribed

in that ſtatute. The parliament, without taking offence at this declaration, repealed the law; and, in lieu of all the ſecurities formerly provided, ſatisfied themſelves with a general clauſe, 'that parliaments ſhould not be interrupted above three years at the moſt.' As the Engliſh parliament had now raiſed itſelf to be a regular check and control upon royal power, it is evident that they ought ſtill to have preſerved a regular ſecurity for their meeting, and not have truſted entirely to the good-will of the king, who, if ambitious or enterpriſing, had ſo little reaſon to be pleaſed with theſe aſſemblies. Before the end of Charles's reign the nation had occaſion to feel very ſenſibly the effects of this repeal.

By the act of uniformity every clergyman, who ſhould officiate without being properly qualified, was puniſhable by fine and impriſonment: but this ſecurity was not thought ſufficient for the church. It was now enacted that, wherever five perſons above thoſe of the ſame houſehold ſhould aſſemble in a religious congregation, every one of them was liable, for the firſt offence, to be impriſoned three months, or pay five pounds; for the ſecond, to be impriſoned ſix months, or pay ten pounds; and for the third to be tranſported ſeven years, or pay a hundred pounds. The parliament had only in their eye the malignity of the ſectaries: they ſhould have carried their attention farther, to the chief cauſe of that malignity, the reſtraint under which they laboured.

The commons likewiſe paſſed a vote that the wrongs, diſhonours, and indignities, offered to the Engliſh by the ſubjects of the United Provinces, were the greateſt obſtructions to all foreign trade; and they promiſed to aſſiſt the king with their lives and fortunes in aſſerting the rights of his crown againſt all oppoſition whatſoever. This was the firſt open ſtep towards a Dutch war. We muſt explain the cauſes and motives of this meaſure.

RUPTURE WITH HOLLAND.

THAT cloſe union and confederacy which, during a courſe of near ſeventy years, has ſubſiſted, almoſt without interruption or jealouſy, between England and Holland, is not ſo much founded on the natural unalterable intereſts of theſe ſtates as on their terror of the growing power of the French monarch, who, without their combination, it is apprehended, would ſoon extend his dominion over Europe. In the firſt year of Charles's reign, when the ambitious genius of Lewis had not as yet diſplayed itſelf, and when the great force of his people was in ſome meaſure unknown even to themſelves, the rivalſhip of commerce, not checked by any other jealouſy or apprehenſion, had in England begotten a violent enmity againſt the neighbouring republic.

Trade was beginning, among the Engliſh, to be a matter of general concern; but, notwithſtanding all their efforts and advantages, their commerce ſeemed hitherto to ſtand upon a footing which was ſomewhat precarious. The Dutch, who by induſtry and frugality were enabled to underſell them in every market, retained poſſeſſion of the moſt lucrative branches of commerce; and the Engliſh merchants had the mortification to find that all attempts to extend their trade were ſtill turned, by the vigilance of their rivals, to their loſs and diſhonour. Their indignation increaſed when they conſidered the ſuperior naval power of England; the bravery of her officers and ſeamen; her favourable ſituation, which enabled her to intercept the whole Dutch commerce. By the proſpect of theſe advantages they were ſtrongly prompted, from motives leſs juſt than political, to make war upon the States; and at once to raviſh from them by force what they could not obtain, or could obtain but ſlowly, by ſuperior ſkill and induſtry.

The careleſs unambitious temper of Charles rendered him little capable of forming ſo vaſt a project as that of engroſſing the commerce and naval power of Europe; yet could he not remain altogether inſenſible to ſuch obvious and ſuch tempting proſpects. His genius, happily turned towards mechanics, had inclined him to ſtudy naval affairs, which, of all branches of buſineſs, he both loved the moſt and underſtood the beſt. Though the Dutch, during his exile, had expreſſed towards him more civility and friendſhip than he had received from any other foreign power, the Louveſtein or ariſtocratic faction, which at this time ruled the commonwealth, had fallen into cloſe union with France; and, could that party be ſubdued, he might hope that his nephew, the young prince of Orange, would be reinſtated in the authority poſſeſſed by his anceſtors, and would bring the States to a dependance under England. His narrow revenues made it ſtill requiſite for him to ſtudy the humours of his people, which now ran violently towards war; and it has been ſuſpected, though the ſuſpicion was not juſtified by the event, that the hopes of diverting ſome of the ſupplies to his private uſe were not overlooked by this neceſſitous monarch.

The duke of York, more active and enterpriſing, puſhed more eagerly the war with Holland. He deſired an opportunity of diſtinguiſhing himſelf; he loved to cultivate commerce; he was at the head of a new African company, whoſe trade was extremely checked by the ſettlements of the Dutch; and perhaps the religious prejudices, by which that prince was always ſo much governed, began even ſo early to inſtil into him an antipathy againſt a proteſtant commonwealth, the bulwark of the reformation. Clarendon and Southampton, obſerving that the nation was not ſupported by any foreign alliance, were averſe to hoſtilities; but their credit was now on the decline.

By theſe concurring motives the court and parliament were both of them inclined to a Dutch war. The parliament was prorogued without voting ſupplies: but, as they had been induced, without any open application from the crown, to paſs that vote above mentioned againſt the Dutch encroachments, it was reaſonably conſidered as ſufficient ſanction for the vigorous meaſures which were reſolved on.

Downing, the Engliſh miniſter at the Hague, a man of an inſolent impetuous temper, preſented a memorial to the States, containing a liſt of thoſe depredations of which the Engliſh complained. It is remarkable that all the pretended depredations preceded the year 1662, when a treaty of league and alliance had been renewed with the Dutch; and theſe complaints were then thought either ſo ill grounded or ſo frivolous, that they had not been mentioned in the treaty. Two ſhips alone, the Bonaventure and the Good Hope, had been claimed by the Engliſh; and it was agreed that the claim ſhould be proſecuted by the ordinary courſe of juſtice. The States had conſigned a ſum of money, in caſe the cauſe ſhould be decided againſt them; but the matter was ſtill in dependance. Cary, who was intruſted by the proprietors with the management of the law ſuit for the Bonaventure, had reſolved to accept of thirty thouſand pounds, which were offered him; but was hindered by Downing, who told him that the claim was a matter of ſtate between the two nations, not a concern of private perſons.[h] Theſe circumſtances give us no favourable idea of the juſtice of the Engliſh pretenſions.

Charles confined not himſelf to memorials and remonſtrances. Sir Robert Holmes was ſecretly diſpatched with a ſquadron of twenty-two ſhips to the coaſt of Africa. He not only expelled the Dutch from cape Corſe, to which the Engliſh had ſome pretenſions; he likewiſe ſeized the Dutch ſettlements of cape

Verde and the iſle of Goree, together with ſeveral ſhips trading on that coaſt: and, having ſailed to America, he poſſeſſed himſelf of Nova Belgia, ſince called New York; a territory which James the Firſt had given by patent to the earl of Stirling, but which had never been planted but by the Hollanders. When the States complained of theſe hoſtile meaſures, the king, unwilling to avow what he could not well juſtify, pretended to be totally ignorant of Holmes's enterpriſe; he likewiſe confined that admiral to the tower, but ſome time after releaſed him.

The Dutch, finding that their applications for redreſs were likely to be eluded, and that a ground of quarrel was induſtriouſly ſought for by the Engliſh, began to arm with diligence. They even exerted, with ſome precipitation, an act of vigour, which haſtened on the rupture. Sir John Lawſon and de Ruyter had been ſent with combined ſquadrons into the Mediterranean, in order to chaſtiſe the piratical ſtates on the coaſt of Barbary; and the time of their ſeparation and return was now approaching. The States ſecretly diſpatched orders to de Ruyter, that he ſhould take in proviſions at Cadiz; and, ſailing towards the coaſt of Guinea, ſhould retaliate on the Engliſh, and put the Dutch in poſſeſſion of thoſe ſettlements whence Holmes had expelled them. De Ruyter, having a conſiderable force on board, met with no oppoſition in Guinea. All the new acquiſitions of the Engliſh, except cape Corſe, were recovered from them; they were even diſpoſſeſſed of ſome old ſettlements. Such of their ſhips as fell into his hands were ſeized by de Ruyter. That admiral ſailed next to America. He attacked Barbadoes, but was repulſed. He afterwards committed hoſtilities on Long Iſland.

Meanwhile the Engliſh preparations for war were advancing with vigour and induſtry. The king had received no ſupplies from parliament, but by his own funds and credit he was en-

abled to equip a fleet; the city of London lent him one hundred thouſand pounds; the ſpirit of the nation ſeconded his armaments; he himſelf went from port to port, inſpecting with great diligence, and encouraging the work; and in a little time the Engliſh navy was put in a formidable condition. Eight hundred thouſand pounds are ſaid to have been expended on this armament. When Lawſon arrived, and communicated his ſuſpicion of de Ruyter's enterpriſe, orders were iſſued for ſeizing all Dutch ſhips, and one hundred and thirty-five fell into the hands of the Engliſh. Theſe were not declared prizes till afterwards, when war was proclaimed.

A NEW SESSION.

THE parliament, when it met, granted a ſupply, the largeſt by far that had ever been given to a king of England, yet ſcarcely ſufficient for the preſent undertaking. Near two millions and a half were voted to be levied by quarterly payments in three years. The avidity of the merchants, together with the great proſpect of ſucceſs, had animated the whole nation againſt the Dutch.

A great alteration was made this ſeſſion in the method of taxing the clergy. In almoſt all the other monarchies of Europe the aſſemblies, whoſe conſent was formerly requiſite to the enacting of laws, were compoſed of three eſtates, the clergy, the nobility, and the commonalty, which formed ſo many members of the political body, of which the king was conſidered as the head. In England too the parliament was always repreſented as conſiſting of three eſtates; but their ſeparation was never ſo diſtinct as in other kingdoms. A convocation, however, had uſually ſitten at the ſame time with the parliament; though they poſſeſſed not a negative voice in the paſſing of laws, and af-

ſumed no other temporal power than that of impoſing taxes on the clergy. By reaſon of eccleſiaſtical preferments, which he could beſtow, the king's influence over the church was more conſiderable than over the laity; ſo that the ſubſidies, granted by the convocation, were commonly greater than thoſe which were voted by parliament. The church, therefore, was not diſpleaſed to depart tacitly from the right of taxing herſelf, and allow the commons to lay impoſitions on eccleſiaſtical revenues, as on the reſt of the kingdom. In recompenſe, two ſubſidies, which the convocation had formerly granted, were remitted, and the parochial clergy were allowed to vote at elections. Thus the church of England made a barter of power for profit. Their convocations, having become inſignificant to the crown, have been much diſuſed of late years.

The Dutch ſaw, with the utmoſt regret, a war approaching, whence they might dread the moſt fatal conſequences, but which afforded no proſpect of advantage. They tried every art of negociation before they would come to extremities. Their meaſures were at that time directed by John de Wit, a miniſter equally eminent for greatneſs of mind, for capacity, and for integrity. Though moderate in his private deportment, he knew how to adopt in his public counſels that magnanimity which ſuits the miniſter of a great ſtate. It was ever his maxim that no independent government ſhould yield to another any evident point of reaſon or equity; and that all ſuch conceſſions, ſo far from preventing war, ſerved to no other purpoſe than to provoke freſh claims and inſults. By his management a ſpirit of union was preſerved in all the provinces; great ſums were levied; and a navy was equipped, compoſed of larger ſhips than the Dutch had ever built before, and able to cope with the fleet of England.

VICTORY OF THE ENGLISH. 1665.

As ſoon as certain intelligence arrived of de Ruyter's enterpriſes Charles declared war againſt the States. His fleet, conſiſting of one hundred and fourteen ſail, beſides fire ſhips and ketches, was commanded by the duke of York, and under him by prince Rupert and the earl of Sandwich. It had about twenty-two thouſand men on board. Obdam, who was admiral of the Dutch navy, of nearly equal force, declined not the combat. In the heat of action, when engaged in cloſe fight with the duke of York, Obdam's ſhip blew up. This accident much diſcouraged the Dutch, who fled towards their own coaſt. Tromp alone, ſon of the famous admiral killed during the former war, bravely ſuſtained with his ſquadron the efforts of the Engliſh, and protected the rear of his countrymen. The vanquiſhed had nineteen ſhips ſunk and taken; the victors loſt only one. Sir John Lawſon died ſoon after of his wounds.

It is affirmed, and with an appearance of reaſon, that this victory might have been rendered more complete, had not orders been iſſued to ſlacken ſail by Brounker, one of the duke's bedchamber, who pretended authority from his maſter. The duke diſclaimed the orders; but Brounker never was ſufficiently puniſhed for his temerity.[1] It is allowed, however, that the duke behaved with great bravery during the action. He was long in the thickeſt of the fire. The earl of Falmouth, lord Muſkerry, and Mr. Boyle, were killed by one ſhot at his ſide, and covered him all over with their brains and gore. And it is not likely that, in a purſuit, where even perſons of inferior ſtation and of the moſt cowardly diſpoſition acquire courage, a commander ſhould feel his ſpirits to flag, and ſhould turn from the back of an enemy, whoſe face he had not been afraid to encounter.

This diſaſter threw the Dutch into conſternation, and determined de Wit, who was the ſoul of their councils, to exert his military capacity, in order to ſupport the declining courage of his countrymen. He went on board the fleet, which he took under his command; and he ſoon remedied all thoſe diſorders which had been occaſioned by the late misfortune. The genius of this man was of the moſt extenſive nature. He quickly became as much maſter of naval affairs as if he had from his infancy been educated in them; and he even made improvements in ſome parts of pilotage and ſailing, beyond what men expert in thoſe arts had ever been able to attain.

RUPTURE WITH FRANCE.

THE misfortunes of the Dutch determined their allies to act for their aſſiſtance and ſupport. The king of France was engaged in a defenſive alliance with the States; but, as his naval force was yet in its infancy, he was extremely averſe at that time from entering into a war with ſo formidable a power as England. He long tried to mediate a peace between the ſtates, and for that purpoſe ſent an embaſſy to London, which returned without effecting any thing. Lord Hollis, the Engliſh ambaſſador at Paris, endeavoured to draw over Lewis to the ſide of England; and, in his maſter's name, made him the moſt tempting offers. Charles was content to abandon all the Spaniſh Low Countries to the French, without pretending to a foot of ground for himſelf, provided Lewis would allow him to purſue his advantages againſt the Dutch.[k] But the French monarch, though the conqueſt of that valuable territory was the chief object of his ambition, rejected the offer as contrary to his intereſts: he thought that, if the Engliſh had once eſtabliſhed an uncontrollable dominion over the ſea and over commerce, they would

ſoon be able to render his acquiſitions a dear purchaſe to him. When de Lionne, the French ſecretary, aſſured Van Beuninghen, ambaſſador of the States, that this offer had been preſſed on his maſter during ſix months; 'I can readily believe it,' replied the Dutchman; 'I am ſenſible ' that it is the intereſt of England.'

Such were the eſtabliſhed maxims at that time with regard to the intereſts of princes. It muſt however be allowed that the politics of Charles, in making this offer, were not a little hazardous. The extreme weakneſs of Spain would have rendered the French conqueſts eaſy and infallible; but the vigour of the Dutch, it might be foreſeen, would make the ſucceſs of the Engliſh much more precarious. And, even were the naval force of Holland totally annihilated, the acquiſition of the Dutch commerce to England could not be relied on as a certain conſequence; nor is trade a conſtant attendant of power, but depends on many other, and ſome of them very delicate, circumſtances.

Though the king of France was reſolved to ſupport the Hollanders in that unequal conteſt in which they were engaged, yet he protracted his declaration, and employed the time in naval preparations, both in the ocean and the Mediterranean. The king of Denmark meanwhile was reſolved not to remain an idle ſpectator of the conteſt between the maritime powers. The part which he acted was the moſt extraordinary: he made a ſecret agreement with Charles to ſeize all the Dutch ſhips in his harbours, and to ſhare the ſpoils with the Engliſh, provided they would aſſiſt him in executing this meaſure. In order to increaſe his prey, he perfidiouſly invited the Dutch to take ſhelter in his ports; and accordingly the Eaſt India fleet, very richly laden, had put into Bergen. Sandwich, who now commanded the Engliſh navy (the duke having gone aſhore), diſpatched ſir

Thomas Tiddiman with a ſquadron to attack them; but, whether from the king of Denmark's delay in ſending orders to the governor, or, what is more probable, from his avidity in endeavouring to engroſs the whole booty, the Engliſh admiral, though he behaved with great bravery, failed of his purpoſe. The Daniſh governor fired upon him; and the Dutch, having had leiſure to fortify themſelves, made a gallant reſiſtance.

RUPTURE WITH DENMARK.

THE king of Denmark, ſeemingly aſhamed of his conduct, concluded with ſir Gilbert Talbot, the Engliſh envoy, an offenſive alliance againſt the States; and at the very ſame time his reſident at the Hague, by his orders, concluded an offenſive alliance againſt England. To this latter alliance he adhered, probably from jealouſy of the increaſing naval power of England; and he ſeized and confiſcated all the Engliſh ſhips in his harbours. This was a ſenſible check to the advantages which Charles had obtained over the Dutch. Not only a blow was given to the Engliſh commerce; the king of Denmark's naval force was alſo conſiderable, and threatened every moment a conjunction with the Hollanders. That prince ſtipulated to aſſiſt his ally with a fleet of thirty ſail; and he received in return a yearly ſubſidy of one million five hundred thouſand crowns, of which three hundred thouſand were paid by France.

The king endeavoured to counterbalance theſe confederacies by acquiring new friends and allies. He had diſpatched ſir Richard Fanſhaw into Spain, who met with a very cold reception. That monarchy was ſunk into a ſtate of weakneſs, and was menaced with an invaſion from France; yet could not any motive prevail with Philip to enter into cordial friendſhip with England. Charles's alliance with Portugal, the detention of Ja-

maica and Tangiers, the ſale of Dunkirk to the French; all theſe offences ſunk ſo deep in the mind of the Spaniſh monarch, that no motive of intereſt was ſufficient to outweigh them.

The biſhop of Munſter was the only ally that Charles could acquire. This prelate, a man of reſtleſs enterpriſe and ambition, had entertained a violent animoſity againſt the States; and he was eaſily engaged, by the promiſe of ſubſidies from England, to make an incurſion on that republic. With a tumultuary army of near twenty thouſand men he invaded her territories, and met with weak reſiſtance. The land forces of the States were as feeble and ill governed as their fleets were gallant and formidable. But, after his committing great ravages in ſeveral of the provinces, a ſtop was put to the progreſs of this warlike prelate. He had not military ſkill ſufficient to improve the advantages which fortune had put into his hands; the king of France ſent a body of ſix thouſand men to oppoſe him; ſubſidies were not regularly remitted him from England, and many of his troops deſerted for want of pay; the elector of Brandenburgh threatened him with an invaſion in his own ſtate; and, on the whole, he was glad to conclude a peace under the mediation of France. On the firſt ſurmiſe of his intentions ſir William Temple was ſent from London with money to ſix him in his former alliance, but found that he arrived too late.

The Dutch, encouraged by all theſe favourable circumſtances, continued reſolute to exert themſelves to the utmoſt in their own defence. De Ruyter, their great admiral, was arrived from his expedition to Guinea; their Indian fleet was come home in ſafety; their harbours were crowded with merchant ſhips; faction at home was appeaſed; the young prince of Orange had put himſelf under the tuition of the ſtates of Holland, and of de Wit, their penſionary, who executed his truſt with honour and fidelity; and the animoſity which the Hollanders entertained

againſt the attack of the Engliſh, ſo unprovoked, as they thought it, made them thirſt for revenge, and hope for better ſucceſs in their next enterpriſe. Such vigour was exerted in the common cauſe, that, in order to man the fleet, all merchant ſhips were prohibited to ſail, and even the fiſheries were ſuſpended.[m]

The Engliſh likewiſe continued in the ſame diſpoſition, though another more grievous calamity had joined itſelf to that of war. The plague had broken out in London; and that with ſuch violence as to cut off, in a year, near ninety thouſand inhabitants. The king was obliged to ſummon the parliament at Oxford.

FIVE-MILE-ACT.

A GOOD agreement ſtill ſubſiſted between the king and parliament. They, on their part, unanimouſly voted him the ſupply demanded, twelve hundred and fifty thouſand pounds, to be levied in two years by monthly aſſeſſments. And he, to gratify them, paſſed the five-mile-act, which has given occaſion to grievous and not unjuſt complaints. The church, under pretence of guarding monarchy againſt its inveterate enemies, perſevered in the project of wreaking her own enmity againſt the nonconformiſts. It was enacted that no diſſenting teacher, who took not the nonreſiſtance oath above mentioned, ſhould, except upon the road, come within five miles of any corporation, or of any place, where he had preached after the act of oblivion. The penalty was a fine of fifty pounds, and ſix months impriſonment. By ejecting the nonconforming clergy from their churches, and prohibiting all ſeparate congregations, they had been rendered incapable of gaining any livelihood by their ſpiritual profeſſion; and now, under colour of removing them from places where their influence might be dangerous, an expedient was fallen upon to deprive them of all means of ſubſiſtence.

Had not the ſpirit of the nation undergone a change, theſe violences were preludes to the moſt furious perſecution.

However prevalent the hierarchy, this law did not paſs without oppoſition. Beſides ſeveral peers, attached to the old parliamentary party, Southampton himſelf, though Clarendon's great friend, expreſſed his diſapprobation of theſe meaſures. But the church party, not diſcouraged with this oppoſition, introduced into the houſe of commons a bill for impoſing the oath of non-reſiſtance on the whole nation. It was rejected only by three voices. The parliament, after a ſhort ſeſſion, was prorogued.

SEA-FIGHT OF FOUR DAYS. 1666.

After France had declared war England was evidently overmatched in force. Yet ſhe poſſeſſed this advantage by her ſituation, that ſhe lay between the fleets of her enemies, and might be able, by ſpeedy and well concerted operations, to prevent their junction. But ſuch was the unhappy conduct of her commanders, or ſuch the want of intelligence in her miniſters, that this circumſtance turned rather to her prejudice. Lewis had given orders to the duke of Beaufort, his admiral, to ſail from Toulon; and the French ſquadron, under his command, conſiſting of above forty ſail,[n] was now commonly ſuppoſed to be entering the channel. The Dutch fleet, to the number of ſeventy-ſix ſail, was at ſea, under the command of de Ruyter and Tromp, in order to join him. The duke of Albemarle and prince Rupert commanded the Engliſh fleet, which exceeded not ſeventy-four ſail. Albemarle, who, from his ſucceſſes under the protector, had too much learned to deſpiſe the enemy, propoſed to detach prince Rupert with twenty ſhips, in order to oppoſe the duke of Beaufort. Sir George Ayſcue, well acquainted with the bravery and conduct of de Ruyter, proteſted againſt the temerity

of this reſolution; but Albemarle's authority prevailed. The remainder of the Engliſh ſet ſail to give battle to the Dutch; who, ſeeing the enemy advance quickly upon them, cut their cables, and prepared for the combat. The battle that enſued is one of the moſt memorable that we read of in ſtory, whether we conſider its long duration, or the deſperate courage with which it was fought. Albemarle made here ſome atonement by his valour for the raſhneſs of the attempt. No youth, animated by glory and ambitious hopes, could exert himſelf more than did this man, who was now in the decline of life, and who had reached the ſummit of honours. We ſhall not enter minutely into particulars; it will be ſufficient to mention the chief events of each day's engagement.

In the firſt day ſir William Berkeley, vice-admiral, leading the van, fell into the thickeſt of the enemy, was overpowered, and his ſhip taken. He himſelf was found dead in his cabin, all covered with blood. The Engliſh had the weather-gage of the enemy; but, as the wind blew ſo hard that they could not uſe their lower tier, they derived but ſmall advantage from this circumſtance. The Dutch ſhot, however, fell chiefly on their ſails and rigging; and few ſhips were ſunk or much damaged. Chain ſhot was at that time a new invention, commonly attributed to de Wit. Sir John Harman exerted himſelf extremely on this day; the Dutch admiral, Evertz, was killed in engaging him. Darkneſs parted the combatants.

The ſecond day the wind was ſomewhat fallen, and the combat became more ſteady and more terrible. The Engliſh now found that the greateſt valour cannot compenſate the ſuperiority of numbers againſt an enemy who is well conducted, and who is not defective in courage. De Ruyter and Van Tromp, rivals in glory and enemies from faction, exerted themſelves in emulation of each other; and de Ruyter had the advantage of diſ-

engaging and ſaving his antagoniſt, who had been ſurrounded by the Engliſh, and was in the moſt imminent danger. Sixteen freſh ſhips joined the Dutch fleet during the action; and the Engliſh were ſo ſhattered that their fighting ſhips were reduced to twenty-eight, and they found themſelves obliged to retreat towards their own coaſt. The Dutch followed them, and were on the point of renewing the combat, when a calm, which came a little before night, prevented the engagement.

Next morning the Engliſh were obliged to continue their retreat, and a proper diſpoſition was made for that purpoſe. The ſhattered ſhips were ordered to ſtretch ahead; and ſixteen of the moſt entire followed them in good order, and kept the enemy in awe. Albemarle himſelf cloſed the rear, and preſented an undaunted countenance to his victorious foes. The earl of Oſſory, ſon of Ormond, a gallant youth, who fought honour and experience in every action throughout Europe, was then on board the admiral. Albemarle confeſſed to him his intention rather to blow up his ſhip, and periſh glorioufly, than yield to the enemy. Oſſory applauded this deſperate reſolution.

About two o'clock the Dutch had come up with their enemy, and were ready to renew the fight; when a new fleet was deſcried from the ſouth, crowding all their ſail to reach the ſcene of action. The Dutch flattered themſelves that Beaufort was arrived, to cut off the retreat of the vanquiſhed: the Engliſh hoped that prince Rupert had come, to turn the ſcale of action. Albemarle, who had received intelligence of the prince's approach, bent his courſe towards him. Unhappily ſir George Ayſcue, in a ſhip of a hundred guns, the largeſt in the fleet, ſtruck on the Galloper ſands, and could receive no aſſiſtance from his friends, who were haſtening to join the reinforcement. He could not even reap the conſolation of periſhing with honour, and revenging his death on his enemies. They were pre-

paring fire ſhips to attack him, and he was obliged to ſtrike. The Engliſh ſailors, ſeeing the neceſſity, with the utmoſt indignation ſurrendered themſelves priſoners.

Albemarle and prince Rupert were now determined to face the enemy; and next morning the battle began afreſh, with more equal force than ever, and with equal valour. After long cannonading, the fleets came to a cloſe combat, which was continued with great violence till parted by a miſt. The Engliſh retired firſt into their harbours.

Though the Engliſh, by their obſtinate courage, reaped the chief honour in this engagement, it is ſomewhat uncertain who obtained the victory. The Hollanders took a few ſhips; and, having ſome appearances of advantage, expreſſed their ſatisfaction by all the ſigns of triumph and rejoicing. But, as the Engliſh fleet was repaired in a little time, and put to ſea more formidable than ever, together with many of thoſe ſhips which the Dutch had boaſted to have burned or deſtroyed, all Europe ſaw that thoſe two brave nations were engaged in a conteſt which was not likely on either ſide to prove deciſive.

VICTORY OF THE ENGLISH.

It was the conjunction alone of the French that could give a deciſive ſuperiority to the Dutch. In order to facilitate this conjunction, de Ruyter, having repaired his fleet, poſted himſelf at the mouth of the Thames. The Engliſh, under prince Rupert and Albemarle, were not long in coming to the attack. The numbers of each fleet amounted to about eighty ſail; and the valour and experience of the commanders, as well as of the ſeamen, rendered the engagement fierce and obſtinate. Sir Thomas Allen, who commanded the white ſquadron of the Engliſh, attacked the Dutch van, which he entirely routed; and he killed

the three admirals who commanded it. Van Tromp engaged ſir Jeremy Smith; and during the heat of action he was ſeparated from de Ruyter and the main body, whether by accident or deſign was never certainly known. De Ruyter, with conduct and valour, maintained the combat againſt the main body of the Engliſh; and, though overpowered by numbers, kept his ſtation till night ended the engagement. Next day, finding the Dutch fleet ſcattered and diſcouraged, his high ſpirit ſubmitted to a retreat, which yet he conducted with ſuch ſkill as to render it equally honourable to himſelf as the greateſt victory. Full of indignation, however, at yielding the ſuperiority to the enemy, he frequently exclaimed, 'My God! what a wretch am I? Among ſo many thouſand bullets, is there not one to put an end to my miſerable life?' One de Witte, his ſon-in-law, who ſtood near, exhorted him, ſince he ſought death, to turn upon the Engliſh, and render his life a dear purchaſe to the victors. But de Ruyter eſteemed it more worthy a brave man to perſevere to the uttermoſt, and as long as poſſible to render ſervice to his country. All that night and next day the Engliſh preſſed upon the rear of the Dutch; and it was chiefly by the redoubled efforts of de Ruyter that the latter ſaved themſelves in their harbours.

The loſs ſuſtained by the Hollanders in this action was not very conſiderable; but, as violent animoſities had broken out between the two admirals, who engaged all the officers on one ſide or other, the conſternation which took place was great among the provinces. Tromp's commiſſion was at laſt taken from him; but, though ſeveral captains had miſbehaved, they were ſo effectually protected by their friends in the magiſtracy of the towns, that moſt of them eſcaped puniſhment, and many were ſtill continued in their commands.

The Engliſh now rode inconteſtable maſters of the ſea, and inſulted the Dutch in their harbours. A detachment under

Holmes was ſent into the road of Vlie, and burned a hundred and forty merchantmen, two men of war, together with Brandaris, a large and rich village on the coaſt. The Dutch merchants, who loſt by this enterpriſe, uniting themſelves to the Orange faction, exclaimed againſt an adminiſtration which they pretended had brought ſuch diſgrace and ruin on their country. None but the firm and intrepid mind of de Wit could have ſupported itſelf under ſuch a complication of calamities.

The king of France, apprehenſive that the Dutch would ſink under their misfortunes, at leaſt that de Wit, his friend, might be diſpoſſeſſed of the adminiſtration, haſtened the advance of the duke of Beaufort. The Dutch fleet likewiſe was again equipped; and, under the command of de Ruyter, cruiſed near the ſtraits of Dover. Prince Rupert with the Engliſh navy, now ſtronger than ever, came full ſail upon them. The Dutch admiral thought proper to decline the combat, and retired into St. John's road near Bulloigne. Here he ſheltered himſelf, both from the Engliſh and from a furious ſtorm which aroſe. Prince Rupert too was obliged to retire into St. Helens; where he ſtayed ſome time, in order to repair the damages which he had ſuſtained. Meanwhile the duke of Beaufort proceeded up the channel, and paſſed the Engliſh fleet unperceived; but he did not find the Dutch, as he expected. De Ruyter had been ſeized with a fever; many of the chief officers had fallen into ſickneſs; a contagious diſtemper was ſpread through the fleet; and the States thought it neceſſary to recall them into their harbours before the enemy could be refitted. The French king, anxious for his navy, which with ſo much care and induſtry he had lately built, diſpatched orders to Beaufort to make the beſt of his way to Breſt. That admiral had again the good fortune to paſs the Engliſh. One ſhip alone, the Ruby, fell into the hands of the enemy.

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON.

FIRE OF LONDON.

WHILE the war continued, without any deciſive ſucceſs on either ſide, a calamity happened in London which threw the people into great conſternation. Fire, breaking out in a baker's houſe near the bridge, ſpread itſelf on all ſides with ſuch rapidity, that no efforts could extinguiſh it till it laid in aſhes a conſiderable part of the city. The inhabitants, without being able to provide effectually for their relief, were reduced to be ſpectators of their own ruin; and were purſued from ſtreet to ſtreet by the flames, which unexpectedly gathered round them. Three days and nights did the fire advance; and it was only by the blowing up of houſes that it was at laſt extinguiſhed. The king and duke uſed their utmoſt endeavours to ſtop the progreſs of the flames; but all their induſtry was unſucceſsful. About four hundred ſtreets and thirteen thouſand houſes were reduced to aſhes.

The cauſes of this calamity were evident. The narrow ſtreets of London, the houſes built entirely of wood, the dry ſeaſon, and a violent eaſt wind which blew; theſe were ſo many concurring circumſtances, which rendered it eaſy to aſſign the reaſon of the deſtruction that enſued. But the people were not ſatisfied with this obvious account. Prompted by blind rage, ſome aſcribed the guilt to the republicans, others to the catholics; though it is not eaſy to conceive how the burning of London could ſerve the purpoſes of either party. As the papiſts were the chief objects of public deteſtation, the rumour which threw the guilt on them was more favourably received by the people. No proof however, or even preſumption, after the ſtricteſt inquiry by a committee of parliament, ever appeared to authoriſe ſuch a calumny; yet, in order to give countenance to the popular prejudice, the inſcription, engraved by authority on

the monument, aſcribed this calamity to that hated ſect. This clauſe was erazed by order of king James when he came to the throne, but after the revolution it was replaced. So credulous, as well as obſtinate, are the people in believing every thing which flatters their prevailing paſſion!

The fire of London, though at that time a great calamity, has proved in the iſſue beneficial both to the city and the kingdom. The city was rebuilt in a very little time; and care was taken to make the ſtreets wider and more regular than before. A diſcretionary power was aſſumed by the king to regulate the diſtribution of the buildings, and to forbid the uſe of lath and timber, the materials of which the houſes were formerly compoſed. The neceſſity was ſo urgent, and the occaſion ſo extraordinary, that no exceptions were taken at an exerciſe of authority which otherwiſe might have been deemed illegal. Had the king been enabled to carry his power ſtill farther, and made the houſes be rebuilt with perfect regularity, and entirely upon one plan, he had much contributed to the convenience as well as embelliſhment of the city. Great advantages, however, have reſulted from the alterations, though not carried to the full length. London became much more healthy after the fire. The plague, which uſed to break out with great fury twice or thrice every century, and indeed was always lurking in ſome corner or other of the city, has ſcarcely ever appeared ſince that calamity.

The parliament met ſoon after, and gave the ſanction of law to thoſe regulations made by royal authority; as well as appointed commiſſioners for deciding all ſuch queſtions of property as might ariſe from the fire. They likewiſe voted a ſupply of eighteen hundred thouſand pounds to be levied, partly by a poll bill, partly by aſſeſſments. Though their inquiry brought out no proofs which could fix on the papiſts the burning of London, the general averſion againſt that ſect ſtill prevailed; and

complaints were made, probably without much foundation, of its dangerous increaſe. Charles, at the deſire of the commons, iſſued a proclamation for the baniſhment of all prieſts and jeſuits; but the bad execution of this, as well as of former edicts, deſtroyed all confidence in his ſincerity whenever he pretended an averſion towards the catholic religion. Whether ſuſpicions of this nature had diminiſhed the king's popularity is uncertain; but it appears that the ſupply was voted much later than Charles expected, or even than the public neceſſities ſeemed to require. The intrigues of the duke of Buckingham, a man who wanted only ſteadineſs to render him extremely dangerous, had ſomewhat embarraſſed the meaſures of the court; and this was the firſt time that the king found any conſiderable reaſon to complain of a failure of confidence in this houſe of commons. The riſing ſymptoms of ill-humour tended, no doubt, to quicken the ſteps which were already making towards a peace with foreign enemies.

ADVANCES TOWARDS PEACE. 1667.

CHARLES began to be ſenſible that all the ends for which the war had been undertaken were likely to prove entirely abortive. The Dutch, even when ſingle, had defended themſelves with vigour, and were every day improving in their military ſkill and preparations. Though their trade had ſuffered extremely, their extenſive credit enabled them to levy great ſums; and, while the ſeamen of England loudly complained for want of pay, the Dutch navy was regularly ſupplied with money and every thing requiſite for its ſubſiſtence. As two powerful kings now ſupported them, every place, from the extremity of Norway to the coaſts of Bayonne, was become hoſtile to the Engliſh; and Charles, neither fond of action, nor ſtimulated by any violent

ambition, earneſtly ſought for means of reſtoring tranquillity to his people, diſguſted with a war which, being joined with the plague and fire, had proved ſo fruitleſs and deſtructive.

The firſt advances towards an accommodation were made by England. When the king ſent for the body of ſir William Berkeley he inſinuated to the States his deſire of peace on reaſonable terms, and their anſwer correſponded in the ſame amicable intentions. Charles, however, to maintain the appearance of ſuperiority, ſtill inſiſted that the States ſhould treat at London, and they agreed to make him this compliment ſo far as concerned themſelves; but, being engaged in alliance with two crowned heads, they could not, they ſaid, prevail with theſe to depart in that reſpect from their dignity. On a ſudden the king went ſo far on the other ſide as to offer the ſending of ambaſſadors to the Hague; but this propoſal, which ſeemed honourable to the Dutch, was meant only to divide and diſtract them, by affording the Engliſh an opportunity to carry on cabals with the diſaffected party. The offer was therefore rejected; and conferences were ſecretly held in the queen-mother's apartments at Paris, where the pretenſions of both parties were diſcuſſed. The Dutch made equitable propoſals; either that all things ſhould be reſtored to the ſame condition in which they ſtood before the war, or that both parties ſhould continue in poſſeſſion of their preſent acquiſitions. Charles accepted of the latter propoſal; and almoſt every thing was adjuſted, except the diſputes with regard to the iſle of Polerone. This iſland lies in the Eaſt Indies, and was formerly valuable for its produce of ſpices. The Engliſh had been maſters of it; but were diſpoſſeſſed at the time when the violences were committed againſt them at Amboyna. Cromwell had ſtipulated to have it reſtored; and the Hollanders, having firſt entirely deſtroyed all the ſpice trees, maintained that they had executed the treaty, but that the Engliſh had been

anew expelled during the courſe of the war. Charles renewed his pretenſions to this iſland; and, as the reaſons on both ſides began to multiply, and ſeemed to require a long diſcuſſion, it was agreed to transfer the treaty to ſome other place; and Charles made choice of Breda.

Lord Hollis and Henry Coventry were the Engliſh ambaſſadors. They immediately deſired that a ſuſpenſion of arms ſhould be agreed to till the ſeveral claims could be adjuſted; but this propoſal, ſeemingly ſo natural, was rejected by the credit of de Wit. That penetrating and active miniſter, thoroughly acquainted with the characters of princes and the ſituation of affairs, had diſcovered an opportunity of ſtriking a blow which might at once reſtore to the Dutch the honour loſt during the war, and ſeverely revenge thoſe injuries which he aſcribed to the wanton ambition and injuſtice of the Engliſh.

Whatever projects might have been formed by Charles for ſecreting the money granted him by parliament, he had hitherto failed in his intention. The expenſes of ſuch vaſt armaments had exhauſted all the ſupplies;° and even a great debt was contracted to the ſeamen. The king therefore was reſolved to ſave, as far as poſſible, the laſt ſupply of eighteen hundred thouſand pounds; and to employ it for the payment of his debts, as well thoſe which had been occaſioned by the war as thoſe which he had formerly contracted. He obſerved that the Dutch had been with great reluctance forced into the war, and that the events of it were not ſuch as to inſpire them with great deſire of its continuance. The French, he knew, had been engaged into hoſtilities by no other motive than that of ſupporting their ally, and were now more deſirous than ever of putting an end to the quarrel. The differences between the parties were ſo inconſiderable, that the concluſion of peace appeared infallible; and nothing but forms, at leaſt ſome vain points of honour, ſeemed to

remain for the ambaſſadors at Breda to diſcuſs. In this ſituation Charles, moved by an ill-timed frugality, remitted his preparations, and expoſed England to one of the greateſt affronts which it has ever received. Two ſmall ſquadrons alone were equipped; and, during a war with ſuch potent and martial enemies, every thing was left almoſt in the ſame ſituation as in times of the moſt profound tranquillity.

DISGRACE AT CHATHAM.

De Wit protracted the negociations at Breda, and haſtened the naval preparations. The Dutch fleet appeared in the Thames under the command of de Ruyter, and threw the Engliſh into the utmoſt conſternation. A chain had been drawn acroſs the river Medway; ſome fortifications had been added to Sheerneſs and Upnore-caſtle: but all theſe preparations were unequal to the preſent neceſſity. Sheerneſs was ſoon taken; nor could it be ſaved by the valour of ſir Edward Sprague, who defended it. Having the advantage of a ſpring tide and an eaſterly wind, the Dutch preſſed on, and broke the chain, though fortified by ſome ſhips, which had been there ſunk by orders of the duke of Albemarle. They burned the three ſhips which lay to guard the chain; the Matthias, the Unity, and the Charles the Fifth. After damaging ſeveral veſſels, and poſſeſſing themſelves of the hull of the Royal Charles, which the Engliſh had burned, they advanced, with ſix men of war and five fire ſhips, as far as Upnore-caſtle, where they burned the Royal Oak, the Loyal London, and the Great James. Captain Douglas, who commanded on board the Royal Oak, periſhed in the flames, though he had an eaſy opportunity of eſcaping. 'Never was it known,' he ſaid, 'that a Douglas had left his poſt [P] without orders.' The Hollanders fell down the Medway without receiving any conſiderable damage;

and it was apprehended that they might next tide ſail up the Thames, and extend their hoſtilities even to the bridge of London. Nine ſhips were ſunk at Woolwich, four at Blackwall; platforms were raiſed in many places, furniſhed with artillery; the train-bands were called out; and every place was in a violent agitation. The Dutch ſailed next to Portſmouth, where they made a fruitleſs attempt; they met with no better ſucceſs at Plymouth; they inſulted Harwich; they ſailed again upon the Thames as far as Tilbury, where they were repulſed. The whole coaſt was in alarm; and, had the French thought proper at this time to join the Dutch fleet, and to invade England, conſequences the moſt fatal might juſtly have been apprehended. But Lewis had no intention to puſh the victory to ſuch extremities. His intereſt required that a balance ſhould be kept between the two maritime powers, not that an uncontrolled ſuperiority ſhould be given to either.

Great indignation prevailed amongſt the Engliſh, to ſee an enemy, whom they regarded as inferior, whom they had expected totally to ſubdue, and over whom they had gained many honourable advantages, now of a ſudden ride undiſputed maſters of the ocean, burn their ſhips in their very harbours, fill every place with confuſion, and ſtrike a terror into the capital itſelf. But, though the cauſe of all theſe diſaſters could be aſcribed neither to bad fortune, to the miſconduct of admirals, nor to the ill behaviour of ſeamen, but ſolely to the avarice, at leaſt to the improvidence, of the government; no dangerous ſymptoms of diſcontent appeared, and no attempt for an inſurrection was made by any of thoſe numerous ſectaries who had been ſo openly branded for their rebellious principles, and who upon that ſuppoſition had been treated with ſuch ſeverity.[q]

In the preſent diſtreſs two expedients were embraced: an army of twelve thouſand men was ſuddenly levied; and the par-

liament, though it lay under prorogation, was ſummoned to meet. The houſes were very thin; and the only vote which the commons paſſed was an addreſs for breaking the army, which was complied with. This expreſſion of jealouſy ſhewed the court what they might expect from that aſſembly; and it was thought more prudent to prorogue them till next winter.

PEACE OF BREDA.

But the ſigning of the treaty at Breda extricated the king from his preſent difficulties. The Engliſh ambaſſadors received orders to recede from thoſe demands which, however frivolous in themſelves, could not now be relinquiſhed without acknowledging a ſuperiority in the enemy. Polerone remained with the Dutch; ſatisfaction for the ſhips Bonaventure and Good Hope, the pretended grounds of the quarrel, was no longer inſiſted on; Acadie was yielded to the French. The acquiſition of New York, a ſettlement ſo important by its ſituation, was the chief advantage which the Engliſh reaped from a war, in which the national character of bravery had ſhone out with luſtre, but where the miſconduct of the government, eſpecially in the concluſion, had been no leſs apparent.

CLARENDON'S FALL.

To appeaſe the people by ſome ſacrifice ſeemed requiſite before the meeting of parliament; and the prejudices of the nation pointed out the victim. The chancellor was at this time much expoſed to the hatred of the public, and of every party which divided the nation. All the numerous ſectaries regarded him as their determined enemy; and aſcribed to his advice and influence thoſe perſecuting laws to which they had lately been

expoſed. The catholics knew that, while he retained any authority, all their credit with the king and the duke would be entirely uſeleſs to them, nor muſt they ever expect any favour or indulgence. Even the royaliſts, diſappointed in their ſanguine hopes of preferment, threw a great load of envy on Clarendon, into whoſe hands the king ſeemed at firſt to have reſigned the whole power of government. The ſale of Dunkirk, the bad payment of the ſeamen, the diſgrace at Chatham, the unſucceſsful concluſion of the war; all theſe misfortunes were charged on the chancellor, who, though he had ever oppoſed the rupture with Holland, thought it ſtill his duty to juſtify what he could not prevent. A building, likewiſe, of more expenſe and magnificence than his ſlender fortune could afford, being unwarily undertaken by him, much expoſed him to public reproach, as if he had acquired great riches by corruption. The populace gave it commonly the appellation of Dunkirk-houſe.

The king himſelf, who had always more revered than loved the chancellor, was now totally eſtranged from him. Amidſt the diſſolute manners of the court that miniſter ſtill maintained an inflexible dignity, and would not ſubmit to any condeſcenſions which he deemed unworthy of his age and character. Buckingham, a man of profligate morals, happy in his talent for ridicule, but expoſed in his own conduct to all the ridicule which he threw on others, ſtill made him the object of his raillery, and gradually leſſened in the king that regard which he bore to his miniſter. When any difficulties aroſe, either for want of power or money, the blame was ſtill thrown on him, who, it was believed, had carefully at the reſtoration checked all laviſh conceſſions to the king. And, what perhaps touched Charles more nearly, he found in Clarendon, it is ſaid, obſtacles to his pleaſures as well as to his ambition.

The king, diſguſted with the homely perſon of his conſort, and deſirous of having children, had hearkened to propoſals of obtaining a divorce, on pretence either of her being pre-engaged to another, or of having made a vow of chaſtity before her marriage. He was farther ſtimulated by his paſſion for Mrs. Stuart, daughter of a Scotch gentleman; a lady of great beauty, and whoſe virtue he had hitherto found impregnable: but Clarendon, apprehenſive of the conſequences attending a diſputed title, and perhaps anxious for the ſucceſſion of his own grandchildren, engaged the duke of Richmond to marry Mrs. Stuart, and thereby put an end to the king's hopes. It is pretended that Charles never forgave this diſappointment.

When politics, therefore, and inclination both concurred to make the king ſacrifice Clarendon to popular prejudices, the memory of his paſt ſervices was not able any longer to delay his fall. The great ſeal was taken from him, and given to ſir Orlando Bridgeman, by the title of lord-keeper. Southampton, the treaſurer, was now dead, who had perſevered to the utmoſt in his attachments to the chancellor. The laſt time he appeared at the council table he exerted his friendſhip with a vigour which neither age nor infirmities could abate. 'This man,' ſaid he, ſpeaking of Clarendon, 'is a true proteſtant, and an honeſt Engliſhman; and while he enjoys power we are ſecure of our laws, liberties, and religion. I dread the conſequences of his removal.'

But the fall of the chancellor was not ſufficient to gratify the malice of his enemies; his total ruin was reſolved on. The duke of York in vain exerted his intereſt in behalf of his father-in-law. Both prince and people united in promoting that violent meaſure; and no means were thought ſo proper for ingratiating the court with a parliament, which had ſo long been governed by that very miniſter, who was now to be the victim of their prejudices.

Some popular acts paved the way for the ſeſſion; and the parliament, in their firſt addreſs, gave the king thanks for theſe inſtances of his goodneſs; and, among the reſt, they took care to mention his diſmiſſion of Clarendon. The king, in reply, aſſured the houſes that he would never again employ that nobleman in any public office whatſoever. Immediately the charge againſt him was opened in the houſe of commons by Mr. Seymour, afterwards ſir Edward, and conſiſted of ſeventeen articles. The houſe, without examining particulars, farther than hearing general affirmations that all would be proved, immediately voted his impeachment. Many of the articles [r] we know to be either falſe or frivolous; and ſuch of them as we are leſs acquainted with we may fairly preſume to be no better grounded. His adviſing the ſale of Dunkirk ſeems the heavieſt and trueſt part of the charge; but a miſtake in judgment, allowing it to be ſuch, where there appear no ſymptoms of corruption or bad intentions, it would be very hard to impute as a crime to any miniſter. The king's neceſſities, which occaſioned that meaſure, cannot, with any appearance of reaſon, be charged on Clarendon; and chiefly proceeded from the over-frugal maxims of the parliament itſelf, in not granting the proper ſupplies to the crown.

When the impeachment was carried up to the peers, as it contained an accuſation of treaſon in general, without ſpecifying any particulars, it ſeemed not a ſufficient ground for committing Clarendon to cuſtody. The precedents of Strafford and Laud were not, by reaſon of the violence of the times, deemed a proper authority; but, as the commons ſtill inſiſted upon his commitment, it was neceſſary to appoint a free conference between the houſes. The lords perſevered in their reſolution; and the commons voted this conduct to be an obſtruction to public juſtice, and a precedent of evil and dangerous tendency. They

alſo choſe a committee to draw up a vindication of their own proceedings.

Clarendon, finding that the popular torrent, united to the violence of power, ran with impetuoſity againſt him, and that a defence offered to ſuch prejudiced ears would be entirely ineffectual, thought proper to withdraw. At Calais he wrote a paper addreſſed to the houſe of lords. He there ſaid that his fortune, which was but moderate, had been gained entirely by the lawful, avowed profits of his office, and by the voluntary bounty of the king; that during the firſt years after the reſtoration he had always concurred in opinion with the other counſellors, men of ſuch reputation that no one could entertain ſuſpicions of their wiſdom or integrity; that his credit ſoon declined, and, however he might diſapprove of ſome meaſures, he found it vain to oppoſe them; that his repugnance to the Dutch war, the ſource of all the public grievances, was always generally known, as well as his diſapprobation of many unhappy ſteps taken in conducting it; and that, whatever pretence might be made of public offences, his real crime, that which had exaſperated his powerful enemies, was his frequent oppoſition to exorbitant grants, which the importunity of ſuitors had extorted from his majeſty.

CLARENDON'S BANISHMENT.

THE lords tranſmitted this paper to the commons under the appellation of a libel; and, by a vote of both houſes, it was condemned to be burned by the hands of the hangman. The parliament next proceeded to exert their legiſlative power againſt Clarendon, and paſſed a bill of baniſhment and incapacity, which received the royal aſſent. He retired into France, where he lived in a private manner. He ſurvived his baniſhment ſix years; and

he employed his leiſure chiefly in reducing into order the Hiſtory of the Civil Wars, for which he had before collected materials. The performance does honour to his memory; and, except Whitlocke's Memorials, is the moſt candid account of thoſe times compoſed by any cotemporary author.

Clarendon was always a friend to the liberty and conſtitution of his country. At the commencement of the civil wars he had entered into the late king's ſervice, and was honoured with a great ſhare in the eſteem and friendſhip of that monarch; he was purſued with unrelenting animoſity by the long parliament; he had ſhared all the fortunes, and directed all the counſels, of the preſent king during his exile; he had been advanced to the higheſt truſt and offices after the reſtoration: yet all theſe circumſtances, which might naturally operate with ſuch force, either on reſentment, gratitude, or ambition, had no influence on his uncorrupted mind. It is ſaid that, when he firſt engaged in the ſtudy of the law, his father exhorted him with great earneſtneſs to ſhun the practice, too common in that profeſſion, of ſtraining every point in favour of prerogative, and perverting ſo uſeful a ſcience to the oppreſſion of liberty; and, in the midſt of theſe rational and virtuous counſels, which he reiterated, he was ſuddenly ſeized with an apoplexy, and expired in his ſon's preſence. This circumſtance gave additional weight to the principles which he inculcated.

The combination of king and ſubject to oppreſs ſo good a miniſter affords, to men of oppoſite diſpoſitions, an equal occaſion of inveighing againſt the ingratitude of princes, or ignorance of the people. Charles ſeems never to have mitigated his reſentment againſt Clarendon; and the national prejudices purſued him to his retreat in France. A company of Engliſh ſoldiers, being quartered near him, aſſaulted his houſe, broke open the doors, gave him a dangerous wound on the head, and would

have proceeded to the laſt extremities, had not their officers, hearing of the violence, happily interpoſed.

The next expedient which the king embraced, in order to acquire popularity, is more deſerving of praiſe; and, had it been ſteadily purſued, would probably have rendered his reign happy, certainly his memory reſpected. It is the Triple Alliance of which I ſpeak; a meaſure which gave entire ſatisfaction to the public.

STATE OF FRANCE. 1668.

THE glory of France, which had long been eclipſed, either by domeſtic factions, or by the ſuperior force of the Spaniſh monarchy, began now to break out with great luſtre, and to engage the attention of the neighbouring nations. The independent power and mutinous ſpirit of the nobility were ſubdued; the popular pretenſions of the parliament reſtrained; the hugonot party reduced to ſubjection; that extenſive and fertile country, enjoying every advantage both of climate and ſituation, was fully peopled with ingenious and induſtrious inhabitants; and, while the ſpirit of the nation diſcovered all the vigour and bravery requiſite for great enterpriſes, it was tamed to an entire ſubmiſſion under the will of the ſovereign.

CHARACTER OF LEWIS XIV.

THE ſovereign who now filled the throne was well adapted, by his perſonal character, both to increaſe and to avail himſelf of theſe advantages. Lewis XIV, endowed with every quality which could enchant the people, poſſeſſed many which merit the approbation of the wiſe. The maſculine beauty of his perſon was embelliſhed with a noble air; the dignity of his behaviour was tempered with affability and politeneſs; elegant without effemi-

nancy, addicted to pleaſure without neglecting buſineſs, decent in his very vices, and beloved in the midſt of arbitrary power, he ſurpaſſed all cotemporary monarchs, as in grandeur, ſo likewiſe in fame and glory.

His ambition, regulated by prudence, not by juſtice, had carefully provided every means of conqueſt; and before he put himſelf in motion he ſeemed to have abſolutely enſured ſucceſs. His finances were brought into order; a naval power created; his armies increaſed and diſciplined; magazines and military ſtores provided; and, though the magnificence of his court was ſupported beyond all former example, ſo regular was the economy obſerved, and ſo willingly did the people, now enriched by arts and commerce, ſubmit to multiplied taxes, that his military force much exceeded what in any preceding age had ever been employed by any European monarch.

The ſudden decline, and almoſt total fall, of the Spaniſh monarchy opened an inviting field to ſo enterpriſing a prince, and ſeemed to promiſe him eaſy and extenſive conqueſts. The other nations of Europe, feeble or ill governed, were aſtoniſhed at the greatneſs of his riſing empire; and all of them caſt their eyes towards England, as the only power which could ſave them from that ſubjection with which they ſeemed to be ſo nearly threatened.

The animoſity which had anciently ſubſiſted between the Engliſh and French nations, and which had been ſuſpended for above a century by the jealouſy of Spaniſh greatneſs, began to revive and to exert itſelf. The glory of preſerving the balance of Europe, a glory ſo much founded on juſtice and humanity, flattered the ambition of England; and the people were eager to provide for their own future ſecurity by oppoſing the progreſs of ſo hated a rival. The proſpect of embracing ſuch meaſures had contributed, among other reaſons, to render the peace of

Breda ſo univerſally acceptable to the nation. By the death of Philip IV, king of Spain, an inviting opportunity, and ſome very ſlender pretences, had been afforded to call forth the ambition of Lewis.

At the treaty of the Pyrenees, when Lewis eſpouſed the Spaniſh princeſs, he had renounced every title of ſucceſſion to every part of the Spaniſh monarchy; and this renunciation had been couched in the moſt accurate and moſt preciſe terms. that language could afford. But, on the death of his father-in-law, he retracted his renunciation, and pretended that natural rights, depending on blood and ſucceſſion, could not be annihilated by any extorted deed or contract. Philip had left a ſon, Charles II of Spain; but, as the queen of France was of a former marriage, ſhe laid claim to a conſiderable province of the Spaniſh monarchy, even to the excluſion of her brother. By the cuſtoms of ſome parts of Brabant, a female of a firſt marriage was preferred to a male of a ſecond, in the ſucceſſion to private inheritances; and Lewis thence inferred that his queen had acquired a right to the dominion of that important duchy.

FRENCH INVASION OF THE LOW COUNTRIES.

A CLAIM of this nature was more properly ſupported by military force than by argument and reaſoning. Lewis appeared on the frontiers of the Netherlands with an army of forty thouſand men, commanded by the beſt generals of the age, and provided with every thing neceſſary for action. The Spaniards, though they might have foreſeen this meaſure, were totally unprepared. Their towns, without magazines, fortifications, or garriſons, fell into the hands of the French king as ſoon as he preſented himſelf before them. Athe, Liſle, Tournay, Oudenarde, Courtray, Charleroi, Binche, were immediately taken; and it was viſible

that no force in the Low Countries was able to ſtop or retard the progreſs of the French arms.

This meaſure, executed with ſuch celerity and ſucceſs, gave great alarm to almoſt every court in Europe. It had been obſerved with what dignity, or even haughtineſs, Lewis, from the time he began to govern, had ever ſupported all his rights and pretenſions. D'Eſtrades, the French ambaſſador, and Watteville, the Spaniſh, having quarrelled in London, on account of their claims for precedency, the French monarch was not ſatisfied till Spain ſent to Paris a ſolemn embaſſy, and promiſed never more to revive ſuch conteſts. Crequi, his ambaſſador at Rome, had met with an affront from the pope's guards: the pope, Alexander VII, had been conſtrained to break his guards, to ſend his nephew to aſk pardon, and to allow a pillar to be erected in Rome itſelf, as a monument of his own humiliation. The king of England too had experienced the high ſpirit and unſubmitting temper of Lewis. A pretenſion to ſuperiority in the Engliſh flag having been advanced, the French monarch remonſtrated with ſuch vigour, and prepared himſelf to reſiſt with ſuch courage, that Charles found it more prudent to deſiſt from his vain and antiquated claims. 'The king of England,' ſaid Lewis to his ambaſſador d'Eſtrades, 'may know my force, but he knows not the ſentiments of my heart; every thing appears to me contemptible in compariſon of glory.' Theſe meaſures of conduct had given ſtrong indications of his character: but the invaſion of Flanders diſcovered an ambition which, being ſupported by ſuch overgrown power, menaced the general liberties of Europe.

As no ſtate lay nearer the danger, none was ſeized with more terror, than the United Provinces. They were ſtill engaged, together with France, in a war againſt England; and Lewis had promiſed them that he would take no ſtep againſt Spain without

previouſly informing them: but, contrary to this aſſurance, he kept a total ſilence till on the very point of entering upon action. If the renunciation made at the treaty of the Pyrenees was not valid, it was foreſeen that, upon the death of the king of Spain, a ſickly infant, the whole monarchy would be claimed by Lewis; after which it would be vainly expected to ſet bounds to his pretenſions. Charles, acquainted with theſe well-grounded apprehenſions of the Dutch, had been the more obſtinate in inſiſting on his own conditions at Breda; and, by delaying to ſign the treaty, had imprudently expoſed himſelf to the ſignal diſgrace which he received at Chatham. De Wit, ſenſible that a few weeks' delay would be of no conſequence in the Low Countries, took this opportunity of ſtriking an important blow, and of finiſhing the war with honour to himſelf and to his country.

NEGOCIATIONS.

NEGOCIATIONS meanwhile commenced for the ſaving of Flanders; but no reſiſtance was made to the French arms. The Spaniſh miniſters exclaimed every where againſt the flagrant injuſtice of Lewis's pretenſions, and repreſented it to be the intereſt of every power in Europe, even more than of Spain itſelf, to prevent his conqueſt of the Low Countries. The emperor and the German princes diſcovered evident ſymptoms of diſcontent; but their motions were ſlow and backward. The States, though terrified at the proſpect of having their frontier expoſed to ſo formidable a foe, ſaw no reſource, no means of ſafety. England indeed ſeemed diſpoſed to make oppoſition to the French; but the variable and impolitic conduct of Charles kept that republic from making him any open advances, by which ſhe might loſe the friendſhip of France without acquiring any new ally. And, though Lewis, dreading a combination of all

Europe, had offered terms of accommodation, the Dutch apprehended left theſe, either from the obſtinacy of the Spaniards or the ambition of the French, ſhould never be carried into execution.

Charles reſolved with great prudence to take the firſt ſtep towards a confederacy. Sir William Temple, his reſident at Bruſſels, received orders to go ſecretly to the Hague, and to concert with the States the means of ſaving the Netherlands. This man, whom philoſophy had taught to deſpiſe the world without rendering him unfit for it, was frank, open, ſincere, ſuperior to the little tricks of vulgar politicians; and, meeting in de Wit with a man of the ſame generous and enlarged ſentiments, he immediately opened his maſter's intentions, and preſſed a ſpeedy concluſion. A treaty was from the firſt negociated between theſe two ſtateſmen with the ſame cordiality as if it were a private tranſaction between intimate companions. Deeming the intereſts of their country the ſame, they gave full ſcope to that ſympathy of character which diſpoſed them to an entire reliance on each other's profeſſions and engagements. And, though jealouſy againſt the houſe of Orange might inſpire de Wit with an averſion to a ſtrict union with England, he generouſly reſolved to ſacrifice all private conſiderations to the public ſervice.

Temple inſiſted on an offenſive league between England and Holland, in order to oblige France to relinquiſh all her conqueſts: but de Wit told him that this meaſure was too bold and precipitate to be agreed to by the States. He ſaid that the French were the old and conſtant allies of the republic; and, till matters came to extremities, ſhe never would deem it prudent to abandon a friendſhip ſo well eſtabliſhed, and rely entirely on a treaty with England, which had lately waged ſo cruel a war againſt her: that ever ſince the reign of Elizabeth there

had been ſuch a fluctuation in the Engliſh councils, that it was not poſſible, for two years together, to take any ſure or certain meaſures with that kingdom: that, though the preſent miniſtry, having entered into views ſo conformable to national intereſt, promiſed greater firmneſs and conſtancy, it might ſtill be unſafe, in a buſineſs of ſuch conſequence, to put entire confidence in them: that the French monarch was young, haughty, and powerful; and, if treated in ſo imperious a manner, would expoſe himſelf to the greateſt extremities rather than ſubmit: that it was ſufficient if he could be conſtrained to adhere to the offers which he himſelf had already made, and if the remaining provinces of the Low Countries could thereby be ſaved from the danger with which they were at preſent threatened: and that the other powers, in Germany and the north, whoſe aſſiſtance they might expect, would be ſatisfied with putting a ſtop to the French conqueſts, without pretending to recover the places already loſt.

The Engliſh miniſter was content to accept of the terms propoſed by the penſionary. Lewis had offered to relinquiſh all the queen's rights, on condition either of keeping the conqueſts which he had made laſt campaign, or of receiving, in lieu of them, Franchecomte, together with Cambray, Aire, and St. Omers. De Wit and Temple founded their treaty upon this propoſal. They agreed to offer their mediation to the contending powers, and oblige France to adhere to this alternative, and Spain to accept of it. If Spain refuſed, they agreed that France ſhould not proſecute her claim by arms, but leave it entirely to England and Holland to employ force for making the terms effectual; and the remainder of the Low Countries they thenceforth guaranteed to Spain. A defenſive alliance was likewiſe concluded between Holland and England.

The articles of this confederacy were ſoon adjuſted by ſuch candid and able negociators; but the greateſt difficulty ſtill remained. By the conſtitution of the republic, all the towns in all the provinces muſt give their conſent to every alliance; and, beſides that this formality could not be diſpatched in leſs than two months, it was juſtly to be dreaded that the influence of France would obſtruct the paſſing of the treaty in ſome of the ſmaller cities. D'Eſtrades, the French ambaſſador, a man of abilities, hearing of the league which was on the carpet, treated it lightly; 'Six weeks hence,' ſaid he, 'we ſhall ſpeak to it.' To obviate this difficulty, de Wit had the courage, for the public good, to break through the laws in ſo fundamental an article; and by his authority he prevailed with the States-General at once to ſign and ratify the league; though they acknowledged that, if that meaſure ſhould diſpleaſe their conſtituents, they riſked their heads by this irregularity. After ſealing, all parties embraced with great cordiality. Temple cried out, 'At Breda as friends, here as brothers.' And de Wit added, that now the matter was finiſhed it looked like a miracle.

TRIPLE LEAGUE.

Room had been left in the treaty for the acceſſion of Sweden, which was ſoon after obtained. And thus was concluded in five days the triple league; an event received with equal ſurpriſe and approbation by the world. Notwithſtanding the unfortunate concluſion of the laſt war, England now appeared in her proper ſtation, and, by this wiſe conduct, had recovered all her influence and credit in Europe. Temple likewiſe received great applauſe; but, to all the compliments made him on the occaſion, he modeſtly replied, that to remove things from their centre, or proper element, required

force and labour; but that of themſelves they eaſily returned to it.

The French monarch was extremely diſpleaſed with this meaſure. Not only bounds were at preſent ſet to his ambition; ſuch a barrier was alſo raiſed as ſeemed for ever impregnable. And, though his own offer was made the foundation of the treaty, he had preſcribed ſo ſhort a time for the acceptance of it, that he ſtill expected, from the delays and reluctance of Spain, to find ſome opportunity for eluding it. The court of Madrid ſhewed equal diſpleaſure. To relinquiſh any part of the Spaniſh provinces, in lieu of claims ſo apparently unjuſt, and theſe urged with ſuch violence and haughtineſs, inſpired the higheſt diſguſt. Often did the Spaniards threaten to abandon entirely the Low Countries, rather than ſubmit to ſo cruel a mortification; and they endeavoured, by this menace, to terrify the mediating powers into more vigorous meaſures for their ſupport. But Temple and de Wit were better acquainted with the views and intereſts of Spain. They knew that ſhe muſt ſtill retain the Low Countries, as a bond of connexion with the other European powers, who alone, if her young monarch ſhould happen to die without iſſue, could enſure her independency againſt the pretenſions of France. They ſtill urged, therefore, the terms of the triple league, and threatened Spain with war in caſe of refuſal. The plenipotentiaries of all the powers met at Aix-la-Chapelle. Temple was miniſter for England, Van Beuninghen for Holland, d'Ohna for Sweden.

TREATY OF AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.

Spain at laſt, preſſed on all hands, accepted of the alternative offered; but in her very compliance ſhe gave ſtrong ſymptoms of ill humour and diſcontent. It had been apparent that the

Hollanders, entirely neglecting the honour of the Spaniſh monarch, had been anxious only for their own ſecurity; and, provided they could remove Lewis to a diſtance from their frontier, were more indifferent what progreſs he made in other places. Senſible of theſe views, the queen-regent of Spain reſolved ſtill to keep them in an anxiety, which might for the future be the foundation of an union more intimate than they were willing at preſent to enter into. Franchecomte, by a vigorous and well concerted plan of the French king, had been conquered, in fifteen days, during a rigorous ſeaſon, and in the midſt of winter. She choſe, therefore, to recover this province, and to abandon all the towns conquered in Flanders during the laſt campaign. By this means Lewis extended his garriſons into the heart of the Low Countries, and a very feeble barrier remained to the Spaniſh provinces.

But, notwithſtanding the advantages of his ſituation, the French monarch could entertain ſmall hopes of ever extending his conqueſts on that quarter, which lay the moſt expoſed to his ambition, and where his acquiſitions were of moſt importance. The triple league guaranteed the remaining provinces to Spain; and the emperor and other powers of Germany, whoſe intereſt ſeemed to be intimately concerned, were invited to enter into the ſame confederacy. Spain herſelf, having about this time, under the mediation of Charles, made peace on equal terms with Portugal, might be expected to exert more vigour and oppoſition to her haughty and triumphant rival. The great ſatisfaction expreſſed in England, on account of the counſels now embraced by the court, promiſed the hearty concurrence of parliament in every meaſure which could be propoſed for oppoſition to the grandeur of France. And thus all Europe ſeemed to repoſe herſelf with ſecurity under the wings of that powerful confederacy which had been ſo happily formed for her

protection. It is now time to give ſome account of the ſtate of affairs in Scotland and in Ireland.

AFFAIRS OF SCOTLAND.

THE Scottiſh nation, though they had never been ſubject to the arbitrary power of their prince, had but very imperfect notions of law and liberty; and ſcarcely in any age had they ever enjoyed an adminiſtration which had confined itſelf within the proper boundaries. By their final union alone with England, their once hated adverſary, they have happily attained the experience of a government perfectly regular, and exempt from all violence and injuſtice. Charles, from his averſion to buſineſs, had intruſted the affairs of that country to his miniſters, particularly Middleton; and theſe could not forbear making very extraordinary ſtretches of authority.

There had been intercepted a letter, written by lord Lorne to lord Duffus, in which a little too plainly, but very truly, he complained that his enemies had endeavoured by falſehood to prepoſſeſs the king againſt him. But he ſaid that he had now diſcovered them, had defeated them, and had gained the perſon, meaning the earl of Clarendon, upon whom the chief of them depended. This letter was produced before the parliament; and Lorne was tried upon an old, tyrannical, abſurd law againſt Leaſing-making; by which it was rendered criminal to belie the ſubjects of the king, or create in him an ill opinion of them. He was condemned to die; but Charles was much diſpleaſed with the ſentence, and granted him a pardon.[s]

It was carried in parliament that twelve perſons, without crime, witneſs, trial, or accuſer, ſhould be declared incapable of all truſt or office; and, to render this injuſtice more egregious, it was agreed that theſe perſons ſhould be named by ballot: a

method of voting which ſeveral republics had adopted at elections, in order to prevent faction and intrigue; but which could ſerve only as a cover to malice and iniquity in the inflicting of puniſhments. Lauderdale, Crawford, and ſir Robert Murray, among others, were incapacitated; but the king, who diſapproved of this injuſtice, refuſed his aſſent.[t]

An act was paſſed againſt all perſons who ſhould move the king for reſtoring the children of thoſe who were attainted by parliament; an unheard-of reſtraint on applications for grace and mercy. No penalty was affixed; but the act was but the more violent and tyrannical on that account. The court lawyers had eſtabliſhed it as a maxim that the aſſigning of a puniſhment was a limitation of the crown; whereas a law forbidding any thing, though without a penalty, made the offenders criminal; and in that caſe they determined that the puniſhment was arbitrary, only that it could not extend to life. Middleton, as commiſſioner, paſſed this act, though he had no inſtructions for that purpoſe.

An act of indemnity paſſed; but at the ſame time it was voted that all thoſe who had offended during the late diſorders ſhould be ſubjected to fines; and a committee of parliament was appointed for impoſing them. Theſe proceeded without any regard to ſome equitable rules which the king had preſcribed to them.[u] The moſt obnoxious compounded ſecretly. No conſideration was had, either of men's riches or of the degrees of their guilt; no proofs were produced; inquiries were not ſo much as made; but, as faſt as information was given in againſt any man, he was marked down for a particular fine; and all was tranſacted in a ſecret committee. When the liſt was read in parliament exceptions were made to ſeveral; ſome had been under age during the civil wars, ſome had been abroad. But it was ſtill replied that a proper time would come when every

man ſhould be heard in his own defence. The only intention, it was ſaid, of ſetting the fines was, that ſuch perſons ſhould have no benefit by the act of indemnity unleſs they paid the ſum demanded; every one that choſe to ſtand upon his innocence, and renounce the benefit of the indemnity, might do it at his peril. It was well known that no one would dare ſo far to ſet at defiance ſo arbitrary an adminiſtration. The king wrote to the council, ordering them to ſuperſede the levying of thoſe fines; but Middleton found means, during ſome time, to elude theſe orders.* And at laſt the king obliged his miniſters to compound for half the ſums which had been impoſed. In all theſe tranſactions, and in moſt others which paſſed during the preſent reign, we ſtill find the moderating hand of the king interpoſed to protect the Scots from the oppreſſions which their own countrymen, employed in the miniſtry, were deſirous of exerciſing over them.

But the chief circumſtance, whence were derived all the ſubſequent tyranny and diſorders in Scotland, was the execution of the laws for the eſtabliſhment of epiſcopacy; a mode of government to which a great part of the nation had entertained an unſurmountable averſion. The rights of patrons had for ſome years been aboliſhed; and the power of electing miniſters had been veſted in the kirk ſeſſion and lay elders. It was now enacted that all incumbents, who had been admitted upon this title, ſhould receive a preſentation from the patron, and ſhould be inſtituted anew by the biſhop, under the penalty of deprivation. The more rigid preſbyterians concerted meaſures among themſelves, and refuſed obedience; they imagined that their number would protect them. Three hundred and fifty pariſhes, above a third of the kingdom, were at once declared vacant. The weſtern countries chiefly were obſtinate in this particular. New miniſters were ſought for all over the kingdom; and no

one was ſo ignorant or vicious as to be rejected. The people, who loved extremely and reſpected their former teachers; men remarkable for the ſeverity of their manners, and their fervor in preaching; were inflamed againſt theſe intruders, who had obtained their livings under ſuch invidious circumſtances, and who took no care, by the regularity of their manners, to ſoften the prejudices entertained againſt them. Even moſt of thoſe who retained their livings by compliance fell under the imputation of hypocriſy, either by their ſhewing a diſguſt to the new model of eccleſiaſtical government, which they had acknowledged; or, on the other hand, by declaring that their former abhorrence to preſbytery and the covenant had been the reſult of violence and neceſſity. And, as Middleton and the new miniſtry indulged themſelves in great riot and diſorder, to which the nation had been little accuſtomed, an opinion univerſally prevailed that any form of religion, offered by ſuch hands, muſt be profane and impious.

The people, notwithſtanding their diſcontents, were reſolved to give no handle againſt them by the leaſt ſymptom of mutiny or ſedition. But this ſubmiſſive diſpoſition, inſtead of procuring a mitigation of the rigours, was made uſe of as an argument for continuing the ſame meaſures which, by their vigour it was pretended, had produced ſo prompt an obedience. The king, however, was diſguſted with the violence of Middleton;[y] and he made Rothes commiſſioner in his place. This nobleman was already preſident of the council, and ſoon after was made lord-keeper and treaſurer. Lauderdale ſtill continued ſecretary of ſtate, and commonly reſided at London.

Affairs remained in a peaceable ſtate till the ſevere law was made in England againſt conventicles.[z] The Scottiſh parliament imitated that violence by paſſing a like act. A kind of high commiſſion court was appointed by the privy council for exe-

cuting this rigorous law, and for the direction of eccleſiaſtical affairs. But even this court, illegal as it might be deemed, was much preferable to the method next adopted. Military force was let looſe by the council. Wherever the people had generally forſaken their churches the guards were quartered throughout the country. Sir James Turner commanded them, a man whoſe natural ferocity of temper was often inflamed by the uſe of ſtrong liquors; he went about, and received from the clergy liſts of thoſe who abſented themſelves from church, or were ſuppoſed to frequent conventicles; without any proof or legal conviction, he demanded a fine from them, and quartered ſoldiers on the ſuppoſed delinquents till he received payment. As an inſurrection was dreaded during the Dutch war, new forces were levied, and intruſted to the command of Dalziel and Drummond; two officers who had ſerved the king during the civil wars, and had afterwards engaged in the ſervice of Ruſſia, where they had increaſed the native cruelty of their diſpoſition. A full career was given to their tyranny by the Scottiſh miniſtry. Repreſentations were made to the king againſt theſe enormities. He ſeemed touched with the ſtate of the country; and, beſides giving orders that the eccleſiaſtical commiſſion ſhould be diſcontinued, he ſignified his opinion that another way of proceeding was neceſſary for his ſervice.[a]

This lenity of the king's came too late to remedy the diſorders. The people, inflamed with bigotry and irritated by ill uſage, roſe in arms. They were inſtigated by Guthry, Semple, and other preachers. They ſurpriſed Turner in Dumfries, and reſolved to have put him to death; but, finding that his orders, which fell into their hands, were more violent than his execution of them, they ſpared his life. At Laneric, after many prayers, they renewed the covenant, and publiſhed their manifeſto, in which they profeſſed all ſubmiſſion to the king; they

deſired only the re-eſtabliſhment of preſbytery and of their former miniſters. As many gentlemen of their party had been confined on ſuſpicion, Wallace and Learmont, two officers, who had ſerved, but in no high rank, were intruſted by the populace with the command. Their force never exceeded two thouſand men; and, though the country in general bore them favour, men's ſpirits were ſo ſubdued, that the rebels could expect no farther acceſſion of numbers. Dalziel took the field to oppoſe their progreſs. Their number was now diminiſhed to eight hundred; and theſe, having advanced near Edinburgh, attempted to find their way back into the weſt by Pentland-hills. They were attacked by the king's forces.[b] Finding that they could not eſcape, they ſtopped their march. Their clergy endeavoured to infuſe courage into them. After ſinging ſome pſalms, the rebels turned on the enemy; and, being aſſiſted by the advantage of the ground, they received the firſt charge very reſolutely: but that was all the action; immediately they fell into diſorder, and fled for their lives. About forty were killed on the ſpot, and a hundred and thirty taken priſoners. The reſt, favoured by the night, and by the wearineſs, and even by the pity, of the king's troops, made their eſcape.

The oppreſſions which theſe people had ſuffered, the deluſions under which they laboured, and their inoffenſive behaviour during the inſurrection, made them the objects of compaſſion; yet were the king's miniſters, particularly Sharpe, reſolved to take ſevere vengeance. Ten were hanged on one gibbet at Edinburgh; thirty-five before their own doors in different places. Theſe criminals might all have ſaved their lives if they would have renounced the covenant. The executions were going on when the king put a ſtop to them. He ſaid that blood enough had already been ſhed; and he wrote a letter to the privy council, in which he ordered that ſuch of the priſoners as ſhould

ſimply promiſe to obey the laws for the future ſhould be ſet at liberty, and that the incorrigible ſhould be ſent to the plantations. This letter was brought by Burnet, archbiſhop of Glaſgow; but, not being immediately delivered to the council by Sharpe, the preſident,[c] one Maccail had in the interval been put to the torture, uuder which he expired. He ſeemed to die in an ecſtaſy of joy. 'Farewel ſun, moon, and ſtars; farewel world and time; farewel weak and frail body: welcome eternity; welcome angels and ſaints; welcome Saviour of the world; and welcome God, the judge of all!' Such were his laſt words; and theſe animated ſpeeches he uttered with an accent and manner which ſtruck all the byſtanders with aſtoniſhment.

AFFAIRS OF IRELAND.

THE ſettlement of Ireland, after the reſtoration, was a work of greater difficulty than that of England, or even of Scotland. Not only the power, during the former uſurpations, had there been veſted in the king's enemies; the whole property, in a manner, of the kingdom had alſo been changed; and it became neceſſary to redreſs, but with as little violence as poſſible, many grievous hardſhips and iniquities which were there complained of.

The Iriſh catholics had in 1648 concluded a treaty with Ormond, the king's lieutenant; in which they had ſtipulated pardon for their paſt rebellion; and had engaged, under certain conditions, to aſſiſt the royal cauſe: and, though the violence of the prieſts and the bigotry of the people had prevented, in a great meaſure, the execution of this treaty, yet were there many who, having ſtrictly, at the hazard of their lives, adhered to it, ſeemed on that account well entitled to reap the fruits of their loyalty. Cromwell, having without diſtinction expelled all the native Iriſh

from the three provinces of Munſter, Leinſter, and Ulſter, had confined them to Connaught and the county of Clare; and among thoſe who had thus been forfeited were many whoſe innocence was altogether unqueſtionable. Several proteſtants likewiſe, and Ormond among the reſt, had all along oppoſed the Iriſh rebellion; yet, having afterwards embraced the king's cauſe againſt the parliament, they were all of them attainted by Cromwell. And there were many officers who had, from the commencement of the inſurrection, ſerved in Ireland, and who, becauſe they would not deſert the king, had been refuſed all their arrears by the Engliſh commonwealth.

To all theſe unhappy ſufferers ſome juſtice ſeemed to be due; but the difficulty was to find the means of redreſſing ſuch great and extenſive iniquities. Almoſt all the valuable parts of Ireland had been meaſured out and divided, either to the adventurers, who had lent money to the parliament for the ſuppreſſion of the Iriſh rebellion, or to the ſoldiers, who had received land in lieu of their arrears. Theſe could not be diſpoſſeſſed, becauſe they were the moſt powerful and only armed part of Ireland; becauſe it was requiſite to favour them, in order to ſupport the proteſtant and Engliſh intereſt in that kingdom; and becauſe they had generally, with a ſeeming zeal and alacrity, concurred in the king's reſtoration: the king therefore iſſued a proclamation, in which he promiſed to maintain their ſettlement, and at the ſame time engaged to give redreſs to the innocent ſufferers. There was a quantity of land as yet undivided in Ireland; and from this, and ſome other funds, it was thought poſſible for the king to fulfil both theſe engagements.

A court of claims was erected, conſiſting altogether of Engliſh commiſſioners, who had no connexions with any of the parties into which Ireland was divided. Before theſe were laid four thouſand claims of perſons craving reſtitution on account of their

innocence; and the commiſſioners had found leiſure to examine only ſix hundred. It already appeared that, if all theſe were to be reſtored, the funds, whence the adventurers and ſoldiers muſt get repriſals, would fall ſhort of giving them any tolerable ſatisfaction. A great alarm and anxiety ſeized all ranks of men; the hopes and fears of every party were excited; theſe eagerly graſped at recovering their paternal inheritance; thoſe were reſolute to maintain their new acquiſitions.

The duke of Ormond was created lord lieutenant, being the only perſon whoſe prudence and equity could compoſe ſuch jarring intereſts. A parliament was aſſembled at Dublin; and, as the lower houſe was almoſt entirely choſen by the ſoldiers and adventurers, who ſtill kept poſſeſſion, it was extremely favourable to that intereſt. The houſe of peers ſhewed greater impartiality.

An inſurrection was projected, together with a ſurpriſal of the caſtle of Dublin, by ſome of the diſbanded ſoldiers; but this deſign was happily defeated by the vigilance of Ormond. Some of the criminals were puniſhed; Blood, the moſt deſperate of them, eſcaped into England.

But affairs could not long remain in the confuſion and uncertainty into which they had fallen. All parties ſeemed willing to abate ſomewhat of their pretenſions, in order to attain ſome ſtability; and Ormond interpoſed his authority for that purpoſe. The ſoldiers and adventurers agreed to relinquiſh a third of their poſſeſſions; and, as they had purchaſed their lands at very low prices, they had reaſon to think themſelves favoured by this compoſition. All thoſe who had been attainted on account of their adhering to the king were reſtored, and ſome of the innocent Iriſh. It was a hard ſituation, that a man was obliged to prove himſelf innocent in order to recover poſſeſſion of the eſtate which he and his anceſtors had ever enjoyed; but the

hardſhip was augmented by the difficult conditions annexed to this proof; if the perſon had ever lived in the quarters of the rebels, he was not admitted to plead his innocence; and he was, for that reaſon alone, ſuppoſed to have been a rebel. The heinous guilt of the Iriſh nation made men the more readily overlook any iniquity which might fall on individuals; and it was conſidered that, though it be always the intereſt of all good government to prevent injuſtice, it is not always poſſible to remedy it after it has had a long courſe, and has been attended with great ſucceſſes.

Ireland began to attain a ſtate of ſome compoſure when it was diſturbed by a violent act, paſſed by the Engliſh parliament, which prohibited the importation of Iriſh cattle into England.[c] Ormond remonſtrated ſtrongly againſt this law: he ſaid that the preſent trade, carried on between England and Ireland, was extremely to the advantage of the former kingdom, which received only proviſions, or rude materials, in return for every ſpecies of manufacture; that, if the cattle of Ireland were prohibited, the inhabitants of that iſland had no other commodity by which they could pay England for their importations, and muſt have recourſe to other nations for a ſupply; that the induſtrious inhabitants of England, if deprived of Iriſh proviſions, which made living cheap, would be obliged to augment the price of labour, and thereby render their manufactures too dear to be exported to foreign markets; that the indolent inhabitants of Ireland, finding proviſions fall almoſt to nothing, would never be induced to labour, but would perpetuate to all generations their native ſloth and barbariſm; that, by cutting off almoſt entirely the trade between the kingdoms, all the natural bands of union were diſſolved, and nothing remained to keep the Iriſh in their duty but force and violence; and that, by reducing that kingdom to extreme poverty, it would be even rendered incapable of main-

taining that military power by which, during its well-grounded diſcontents, it muſt neceſſarily be retained in ſubjection.

The king was ſo much convinced of the juſtneſs of theſe reaſons, that he uſed all his intereſt to oppoſe the bill; and he openly declared that he could not give his aſſent to it with a ſafe conſcience. But the commons were reſolute in their purpoſe. Some of the rents of England had fallen of late years, which had been aſcribed entirely to the importation of Iriſh cattle; ſeveral intrigues had contributed to inflame that prejudice, particularly thoſe of Buckingham and Aſhley, who were deſirous of giving Ormond diſturbance in his government; and the ſpirit of tyranny, of which nations are as ſuſceptible as individuals, had extremely animated the Engliſh to exert their ſuperiority over their dependent ſtate. No affair could be conducted with greater violence than this was by the commons; they even went ſo far, in the preamble of the bill, as to declare the importation of Iriſh cattle to be a nuiſance. By this expreſſion they gave ſcope to their paſſion, and at the ſame time barred the king's prerogative, by which he might think himſelf entitled to diſpenſe with a law ſo full of injuſtice and bad policy. The lords expunged the word; but, as the king was ſenſible that no ſupply would be given by the commons unleſs they were gratified in their prejudices, he was obliged both to employ his intereſt with the peers for making the bill paſs, and to give the royal aſſent to it. He could not, however, forbear expreſſing his diſpleaſure at the jealouſy entertained againſt him, and at the intention which the commons diſcovered of retrenching his prerogative.

This law brought great diſtreſs for ſome time upon the Iriſh; but it has occaſioned their applying with great induſtry to manufactures, and has proved in the iſſue beneficial to that kingdom.

CHAPTER LXV.

CHARLES II.

A PARLIAMENT.... THE CABAL.... THEIR CHARACTERS.... THEIR COUNSELS.... ALLIANCE WITH FRANCE.... A PARLIAMENT.... COVENTRY ACT.... BLOOD'S CRIMES.... DUKE DECLARES HIMSELF CATHOLIC.... EXCHEQUER SHUT.... DECLARATION OF INDULGENCE .... ATTACK OF THE SMYRNA FLEET.... WAR DECLARED WITH HOLLAND.... WEAKNESS OF THE STATES.... BATTLE OF SOLEBAY: SANDWICH KILLED.... PROGRESS OF THE FRENCH.... CONSTERNATION OF THE DUTCH.... PRINCE OF ORANGE STADTHOLDER.... MASSACRE OF THE DE WITS.... GOOD CONDUCT OF THE PRINCE .... A PARLIAMENT.... DECLARATION OF INDULGENCE RECALLED .... TWO SEA-FIGHTS.... ANOTHER SEA-FIGHT.... CONGRESS OF COLOGNE.... A PARLIAMENT.... PEACE WITH HOLLAND.

SINCE the reſtoration England had attained a ſituation which had never been experienced in any former period of her government, and which ſeemed the only one that could fully enſure at once her tranquillity and her liberty. The king was in continual want of ſupply from the parliament; and he ſeemed willing to accommodate himſelf to that dependent ſituation. Inſtead of reviving thoſe claims of prerogative, ſo ſtrenuouſly inſiſted on by his predeceſſors, Charles had ſtrictly confined himſelf within the limits of law; and had courted, by every art of

popularity, the affections of his ſubjects. Even the ſeverities, however blameable, which he had exerciſed againſt nonconformiſts, are to be conſidered as expedients by which he ſtrove to ingratiate himſelf with that party which predominated in parliament. But, notwithſtanding theſe promiſing appearances, there were many circumſtances which kept the government from reſting ſteadily on that bottom on which it was placed. The crown, having loſt almoſt all its ancient demeſnes, relied entirely on voluntary grants of the people; and the commons, not fully accuſtomed to this new ſituation, were not yet diſpoſed to ſupply with ſufficient liberality the neceſſities of the crown. They imitated too ſtrictly the example of their predeceſſors in a rigid frugality of public money; and neither ſufficiently conſidered the indigent condition of their prince, nor the general ſtate of Europe; where every nation, by its increaſe both of magnificence and force, had made great additions to all public expenſes. Some conſiderable ſums, indeed, were beſtowed on Charles; and the patriots of that age, tenacious of ancient maxims, loudly upbraided the commons with prodigality. But, if we may judge by the example of a later period, when the government has become more regular and the harmony of its parts has been more happily adjuſted, the parliaments of this reign ſeem rather to have merited a contrary reproach.

The natural conſequence of the poverty of the crown was, beſides feeble irregular tranſactions in foreign affairs, a continual uncertainty in its domeſtic adminiſtration. No one could anſwer with any tolerable aſſurance for the meaſures of the houſe of commons: few of the members were attached to the court by any other band than that of inclination: royaliſts indeed in their principles, but unexperienced in buſineſs, they lay expoſed to every rumour or inſinuation; and were driven by momentary guſts or currents, no leſs than the populace themſelves. Even

Sir Edw.d Spragge
forcing the Dutch Fleet from
the Mouth of the Thames.
July 23. 1667.

the attempts made to gain an aſcendant over them by offices, and, as it is believed, by bribes and penſions, were apt to operate in a manner contrary to what was intended by the miniſters. The novelty of the practice conveyed a general, and indeed a juſt, alarm; while at the ſame time the poverty of the crown rendered this influence very limited and precarious.

The character of Charles was ill fitted to remedy thoſe defects in the conſtitution: he acted in the adminiſtration of public affairs as if government were a paſtime rather than a ſerious occupation; and by the uncertainty of his conduct he loſt that authority which could alone beſtow conſtancy on the fluctuating reſolutions of the parliament: his expenſes too, which ſometimes perhaps exceeded the proper bounds, were directed more by inclination than by policy; and, while they increaſed his dependance on the parliament, they were not calculated fully to ſatisfy either the intereſted or diſintereſted part of that aſſembly.

A PARLIAMENT. 1668.

THE parliament met after a long adjournment; and the king promiſed himſelf every thing from the attachment of the commons. All his late meaſures had been calculated to acquire the good-will of his people; and, above all, the triple league, it was hoped, would be able to efface all the diſagreeable impreſſions left by the unhappy concluſion of the Dutch war. But a new attempt made by the court, and a laudable one too, loſt him for a time the effect of all theſe endeavours. Buckingham, who was in great favour with the king, and carried on many intrigues among the commons, had alſo endeavoured to ſupport connexions with the nonconformiſts; and he now formed a ſcheme, in concert with the lord-keeper, ſir Orlando Bridgeman, and the chief juſtice, ſir Matthew Hale, two worthy patriots, to put

an end to thoſe ſeverities under which theſe religioniſts had ſo long laboured. It was propoſed to reconcile the preſbyterians by a comprehenſion, and to grant a toleration to the independents and other ſectaries. Favour ſeems not by this ſcheme, as by others embraced during the preſent reign, to have been intended the catholics: yet were the zealous commons ſo diſguſted, that they could not be prevailed on even to give the king thanks for the triple league, however laudable that meaſure was then, and has ever ſince been, eſteemed. They immediately voted an addreſs for a proclamation againſt conventicles. Their requeſt was complied with; but, as the king ſtill dropped ſome hints of his deſire to reconcile his proteſtant ſubjects, the commons paſſed a very unuſual vote, that no man ſhould bring into the houſe any bill of that nature. The king in vain reiterated his ſolicitations for ſupply; repreſented the neceſſity of equipping a fleet; and even offered that the money which they ſhould grant ſhould be collected and iſſued for that purpoſe by commiſſioners appointed by the houſe. Inſtead of complying, the commons voted an inquiry into all the miſcarriages during the late war; the ſlackening of ſail after the duke's victory, from falſe orders delivered by Brounker; the miſcarriage at Bergen; the diviſion of the fleet under prince Rupert and Albemarle; the diſgrace at Chatham. Brounker was expelled the houſe, and ordered to be impeached. Commiſſioner Pet, who had neglected orders iſſued for the ſecurity of Chatham, met with the ſame fate. Theſe impeachments were never proſecuted. The houſe at length, having been indulged in all their prejudices, were prevailed with to vote the king three hundred and ten thouſand pounds, by an impoſition on wine and other liquors; after which they were adjourned.

Public buſineſs, beſides being retarded by the diſguſt of the commons againſt the tolerating maxims of the court, met with

obſtructions this ſeſſion from a quarrel between the two houſes. Skinner, a rich merchant in London, having ſuffered ſome injuries from the Eaſt India company, laid the matter by petition before the houſe of lords, by whom he was relieved in coſts and damages to the amount of five thouſand pounds. The commons voted that the lords, in taking cognizance of this affair originally, without any appeal from inferior courts, had acted in a manner not agreeable to the laws of the land, and tending to deprive the ſubject of the right, eaſe, and benefit, due to him by theſe laws; and that Skinner, in proſecuting the ſuit after this manner, had infringed the privileges of the commons; for which offence they ordered him to be taken into cuſtody. Some conferences enſued between the houſes; where the lords were tenacious of their right of judicature, and maintained that the method in which they had exerciſed it was quite regular. The commons roſe into a great ferment; and went ſo far as to vote that 'whoever ſhould be aiding or aſſiſting in putting in execution the order or ſentence of the houſe of lords, in the caſe of Skinner againſt the Eaſt India company, ſhould be deemed a betrayer of the rights and liberties of the commons of England, and an infringer of the privileges of the houſe of commons.' They rightly judged that it would not be eaſy, after this vote, to find any one who would venture to incur their indignation. The proceedings indeed of the lords ſeem in this caſe to have been unuſual, and without precedent.

The king's neceſſities obliged him again to aſſemble the parliament, who ſhewed ſome diſpoſition to relieve him. The price, however, which he muſt pay for this indulgence, was his yielding to new laws againſt conventicles. His complaiſance in this particular contributed more to gain the commons than all the pompous pretences of ſupporting the triple alliance, that popular meaſure by which he expected to make ſuch advantage. The

quarrel between the two houſes was revived; and, as the commons had voted only four hundred thouſand pounds, with which the king was not ſatisfied, he thought proper, before they had carried their vote into a law, to prorogue them. The only buſineſs finiſhed this ſhort ſeſſion was the receiving of the report of the committee appointed for examining the public accounts. On the firſt inſpection of this report there appears a great ſum, no leſs than a million and a half, unaccounted for; and the natural inference is that the king had much abuſed the truſt repoſed in him by parliament: but a more accurate inſpection of particulars ſerves in a great meaſure to remove this imputation. The king indeed went ſo far as to tell the parliament, from the throne, 'that he had fully informed himſelf of that matter, and did affirm that no part of thoſe monies which they had given him had been diverted to other uſes; but, on the contrary, beſides all thoſe ſupplies, a very great ſum had been raiſed out of his ſtanding revenue and credit, and a very great debt contracted; and all for the war.' Though artificial pretences have often been employed by kings in their ſpeeches to parliament, and by none more than Charles, it is ſomewhat difficult to ſuſpect him of a direct lie and falſehood. He muſt have had ſome reaſons, and perhaps not unplauſible ones, for this affirmation, of which all his hearers, as they had the accounts lying before them, were at that time competent judges.[d]

The method which all parliaments had hitherto followed, was to vote a particular ſum for the ſupply, without any diſtinction or any appropriation to particular ſervices. So long as the demands of the crown were ſmall and caſual, no great inconveniencies aroſe from this practice. But, as all the meaſures of government were now changed, it muſt be confeſſed that, if the king made a juſt application of public money, this inaccurate method of proceeding, by expoſing him to ſuſpicion, was

prejudicial to him. If he were inclined to act otherwiſe it was equally hurtful to the people. For theſe reaſons a contrary practice, during all the late reigns, has conſtantly been followed by the commons.

When the parliament met after the prorogation they entered anew upon the buſineſs of ſupply, and granted the king an additional duty, during eight years, of twelve pounds on each tun of Spaniſh wine imported, eight on each tun of French. A law alſo paſſed empowering him to ſell the fee-farm rents; the laſt remains of the demeſnes, by which the ancient kings of England had been ſupported. By this expedient he obtained ſome ſupply for his preſent neceſſities; but left the crown, if poſſible, ſtill more dependent than before. How much money might be raiſed by theſe ſales is uncertain; but it could not be near one million eight hundred thouſand pounds, the ſum aſſigned by ſome writers.[e]

The act againſt conventicles paſſed, and received the royal aſſent. It bears the appearance of mitigating the former perſecuting laws; but, if we may judge by the ſpirit which had broken out almoſt every ſeſſion during this parliament, it was not intended as any favour to the nonconformiſts. Experience probably had taught that laws over rigid and ſevere could not be executed. By this act a hearer in a conventicle (that is, in a diſſenting aſſembly, where more than five were preſent beſides the family) was fined five ſhillings for the firſt offence, ten for the ſecond; the preacher twenty pounds for the firſt offence, forty for the ſecond. The perſon, in whoſe houſe the conventicle met, was amerced a like ſum with the preacher. One clauſe is remarkable; that, if any diſpute ſhould ariſe with regard to the interpretation of any part of the act, the judges ſhould always explain the doubt in the ſenſe leaſt favourable to conventicles, it being the intention of parliament entirely to ſuppreſs them.

Such was the zeal of the commons, that they violated the plaineſt and moſt eſtabliſhed maxims of civil policy, which require that, in all criminal proſecutions, favour ſhould always be given to the priſoner.

The affair of Skinner ſtill remained a ground of quarrel between the two houſes; but the king prevailed with the peers to accept of the expedient propoſed by the commons, that a general razure ſhould be made of all the tranſactions with regard to that diſputed queſtion.

Some attempts were made by the king to effect a union between England and Scotland; though they were too feeble to remove all the difficulties which obſtructed that uſeful and important undertaking. Commiſſioners were appointed to meet, in order to regulate the conditions; but the deſign, chiefly by the intrigues of Lauderdale, ſoon after came to nothing.

The king about this time began frequently to attend the debates of the houſe of peers. He ſaid that they amuſed him, and that he found them no leſs entertaining than a play. But deeper deſigns were ſuſpected. As he ſeemed to intereſt himſelf extremely in the cauſe of lord Roos, who had obtained a divorce from his wife on the accuſation of adultery, and applied to parliament for leave to marry again, people imagined that Charles intended to make a precedent of the caſe, and that ſome other pretence would be found for getting rid of the queen. Many propoſals to this purpoſe, it is ſaid, were made him by Buckingham. But the king, how little ſcrupulous ſoever in ſome reſpects, was incapable of any action harſh or barbarous; and he always rejected every ſcheme of this nature. A ſuſpicion, however, of ſuch intentions, it was obſerved, had at this time begotten a coldneſs between the two royal brothers.

We now come to a period when the king's counſels, which had hitherto, in the main, been good, though negligent and

fluctuating, became, during ſome time, remarkably bad, or even criminal; and, breeding incurable jealouſies in all men, were followed by ſuch conſequences as had almoſt terminated in the ruin both of prince and people. Happily the ſame negligence ſtill attended him; and, as it had leſſened the influence of the good, it alſo diminiſhed the effect of the bad, meaſures which he embraced.

THE CABAL. 1670.

It was remarked that the committee of council, eſtabliſhed for foreign affairs, was entirely changed; and that prince Rupert, the duke of Ormond, ſecretary Trevor, and lord-keeper Bridgeman, men in whoſe honour the nation had great confidence, were never called to any deliberations. The whole ſecret was intruſted to five perſons, Clifford, Aſhley, Buckingham, Arlington, and Lauderdale. Theſe men were known by the appellation of the Cabal, a word which the initial letters of their names happened to compoſe. Never was there a more dangerous miniſtry in England, nor one more noted for pernicious counſels.

THEIR CHARACTERS.

Lord Aſhley, ſoon after known by the name of earl of Shafteſbury, was one of the moſt remarkable characters of the age, and the chief ſpring of all the ſucceeding movements. During his early youth he had engaged in the late king's party; but, being diſguſted with ſome meaſures of prince Maurice, he ſoon deſerted to the parliament. He inſinuated himſelf into the confidence of Cromwell; and, as he had great influence with the preſbyterians, he was ſerviceable in ſupporting, with his party, the authority of that uſurper. He employed the ſame credit in promoting the reſtoration; and on that account both deſerved

and acquired favour with the king. In all his changes he ſtill maintained the character of never betraying thoſe friends whom he deſerted; and whichever party he joined, his great capacity and ſingular talents ſoon gained him their confidence, and enabled him to take the lead among them. No ſtation could ſatisfy his ambition, no fatigues were inſuperable to his induſtry. Well acquainted with the blind attachment of faction, he ſurmounted all ſenſe of ſhame; and, relying on the ſubtilty of his contrivances, he was not ſtartled with enterpriſes the moſt hazardous and moſt criminal. His talents, both of public ſpeaking and private inſinuation, ſhone out in an eminent degree; and, amidſt all his furious paſſions, he poſſeſſed a ſound judgment of buſineſs, and ſtill more of men. Though fitted by nature for beginning and puſhing the greateſt undertakings, he was never able to conduct any to a happy period; and his eminent abilities, by reaſon of his inſatiable deſires, were equally dangerous to himſelf, to the prince, and to the people.

The duke of Buckingham poſſeſſed all the advantages which a graceful perſon, a high rank, a ſplendid fortune, and a lively wit, could beſtow; but by his wild conduct, unreſtrained either by prudence or principle, he found means to render himſelf in the end odious and even inſignificant. The leaſt intereſt could make him abandon his honour; the ſmalleſt pleaſure could ſeduce him from his intereſt; the moſt frivolous caprice was ſufficient to counterbalance his pleaſure. By his want of ſecreſy and conſtancy he deſtroyed his character in public life; by his contempt of order and economy he diſſipated his private fortune; by riot and debauchery he ruined his health; and he remained at laſt as incapable of doing hurt, as he had ever been little deſirous of doing good, to mankind.

The earl, ſoon after created duke of Lauderdale, was not defective in natural, and ſtill leſs in acquired, talents; but neither

was his addreſs graceful, nor his underſtanding juſt. His principles, or more properly ſpeaking his prejudices, were obſtinate, but unable to reſtrain his ambition; his ambition was ſtill leſs dangerous than the tyranny and violence of his temper. An implacable enemy, but a lukewarm friend; inſolent to his inferiors, but abject to his ſuperiors; though in his whole character and deportment he was almoſt diametrically oppoſite to the king, he had the fortune, beyond any other miniſter, to maintain, during the greater part of his reign, an aſcendant over him.

The talents of parliamentary eloquence and intrigue had raiſed ſir Thomas Clifford; and his daring impetuous ſpirit gave him weight in the king's councils. Of the whole cabal, Arlington was the leaſt dangerous, either by his vices or his talents. His judgment was ſound, though his capacity was but moderate; and his intentions were good, though he wanted courage and integrity to perſevere in them. Together with Temple and Bridgeman, he had been a great promoter of the triple league; but he threw himſelf, with equal alacrity, into oppoſite meaſures when he found them agreeable to his maſter. Clifford and he were ſecretly catholics: Shafteſbury, though addicted to aſtrology, was reckoned a deiſt: Buckingham had too little reflection to embrace any ſteady principles: Lauderdale had long been a bigoted and furious preſbyterian; and the opinions of that ſect ſtill kept poſſeſſion of his mind, how little ſoever they appeared in his conduct.

The dark counſels of the Cabal, though from the firſt they gave anxiety to all men of reflection, were not thoroughly known but by the event. Such ſeem to have been the views which they, in concurrence with ſome catholic courtiers, who had the ear of their ſovereign, ſuggeſted to the king and the duke, and which theſe princes too greedily embraced. They

ſaid that the parliament, though the ſpirit of party for the preſent attached them to the crown, were ſtill more attached to thoſe powers and privileges which their predeceſſors had uſurped from the ſovereign: that, after the firſt flow of kindneſs was ſpent, they had diſcovered evident ſymptoms of diſcontent; and would be ſure to turn againſt the king all the authority which they yet retained, and ſtill more thoſe pretenſions which it was eaſy for them in a moment to revive: that they not only kept the king in dependance by means of his precarious revenue; but had never diſcovered a ſuitable generoſity, even in thoſe temporary ſupplies which they granted him: that it was high time for the prince to rouſe himſelf from his lethargy, and to recover that authority which his predeceſſors, during ſo many ages, had peaceably enjoyed: that the great error or misfortune of his father was the not having formed any cloſe connexion with foreign princes, who, on the breaking out of the rebellion, might have found their intereſt in ſupporting him: that the preſent alliances, being entered into with ſo many weaker potentates, who themſelves ſtood in need of the king's protection, could never ſerve to maintain, much leſs augment, the royal authority: that the French monarch alone, ſo generous a prince, and by blood ſo nearly allied to the king, would be found both able and willing, if gratified in his ambition, to defend the common cauſe of kings againſt uſurping ſubjects: that a war, undertaken againſt Holland by the united force of two ſuch mighty potentates, would prove an eaſy enterpriſe, and would ſerve all the purpoſes which were aimed at: that, under pretence of that war, it would not be difficult to levy a military force, without which, during the prevalence of republican principles among his ſubjects, the king would vainly expect to defend his prerogative: that his naval power might be maintained partly by the ſupplies which, on other pretences, would

previouſly be obtained from parliament; partly by ſubſidies from France; partly by captures, which might eaſily be made on that opulent republic: that, in ſuch a ſituation, attempts to recover the loſt authority of the crown would be attended with ſucceſs; nor would any malcontents dare to reſiſt a prince fortified by ſo powerful an alliance; or, if they did, they would only draw more certain ruin on themſelves and on their cauſe: and that by ſubduing the States a great ſtep would be made towards a reformation of the government; ſince it was apparent that that republic, by its fame and grandeur, fortified, in his factious ſubjects, their attachment to what they vainly termed their civil and religious liberties.

Theſe ſuggeſtions happened fatally to concur with all the inclinations and prejudices of the king; his deſire of more extenſive authority, his propenſity to the catholic religion, his avidity for money. He ſeems likewiſe, from the very beginning of his reign, to have entertained great jealouſy of his own ſubjects, and on that account a deſire of fortifying himſelf by an intimate alliance with France. So early as 1664 he had offered the French monarch to allow him, without oppoſition, to conquer Flanders, provided that prince would engage to furniſh him with ten thouſand infantry, and a ſuitable number of cavalry, in caſe of any rebellion in England.[f] As no dangerous ſymptom at that time appeared, we are left to conjecture, from this incident, what opinion Charles had conceived of the factious diſpoſition of his people.

Even during the time when the triple alliance was the moſt zealouſly cultivated the king never ſeems to have been entirely cordial in thoſe ſalutary meaſures, but ſtill to have caſt a longing eye towards the French alliance. Clifford, who had much of his confidence, ſaid imprudently, 'Notwithſtanding all this joy, we muſt have a ſecond war with Holland.' The acceſſion

of the emperor to that alliance had been refuſed by England on frivolous pretences. And many unfriendly cavils were raiſed againſt the States with regard to Surinam and the conduct of the Eaſt India company.[s] But about April 1669 the ſtrongeſt ſymptoms appeared of thoſe fatal meaſures, which were afterwards more openly purſued.

De Wit at that time came to Temple, and told him that he paid him a viſit as a friend, not as a miniſter. The occaſion was to acquaint him with a converſation which he had lately had with Puffendorf the Swediſh agent, who had paſſed by the Hague in the way from Paris to his own country. The French miniſters, Puffendorf ſaid, had taken much pains to perſuade him that the Swedes would very ill find their account in thoſe meaſures which they had lately embraced: that Spain would fail them in all her promiſes of ſubſidies; nor would Holland alone be able to ſupport them: that England would certainly fail them, and had already adopted counſels directly oppoſite to thoſe which by the triple league ſhe had bound herſelf to purſue: and that the reſolution was not the leſs fixed and certain becauſe the ſecret was as yet communicated to very few, either in the French or Engliſh court. When Puffendorf ſeemed incredulous Turenne ſhewed him a letter from Colbert de Croſſy, the French miniſter at London; in which, after mentioning the ſucceſs of his negociations, and the favourable diſpoſition of the chief miniſters there, he added, 'And I have at laſt made them ſenſible of the full extent [h] of his majeſty's bounty.' From this incident it appears that the infamous practice of ſelling themſelves to foreign princes; a practice which, notwithſtanding the malignity of the vulgar, is certainly rare among men in high office; had not been ſcrupled by Charles's miniſters, who even obtained their maſter's conſent to this diſhonourable corruption.

CHARLES II. RECEIVING THE Dss OF ORLEANS AT DOVER

ALLIANCE WITH FRANCE.

But, while all men of penetration, both abroad and at home, were alarmed with theſe incidents, the viſit which the king received from his ſiſter, the ducheſs of Orleans, was the foundation of ſtill ſtronger ſuſpicions. Lewis, knowing the addreſs and inſinuation of that amiable princeſs, and the great influence which ſhe had gained over her brother, had engaged her to employ all her good offices, in order to detach Charles from the triple league, which he knew had fixed ſuch unſurmountable barriers to his ambition; and he now ſent her to put the laſt hand to the plan of their conjunct operations. That he might the better cover this negociation, he pretended to viſit his frontiers, particularly the great works which he had undertaken at Dunkirk; and he carried the queen and the whole court along with him. While he remained on the oppoſite ſhore the ducheſs of Orleans went over to England; and Charles met her at Dover, where they paſſed ten days together in great mirth and feſtivity. By her artifices and careſſes ſhe prevailed on Charles to relinquiſh the moſt ſettled maxims of honour and policy, and to finiſh his engagements with Lewis for the deſtruction of Holland, as well as for the ſubſequent change of religion in England.

But Lewis well knew Charles's character, and the uſual fluctuation of his counſels. In order to fix him in the French intereſts he reſolved to bind him by the ties of pleaſure, the only ones which with him were irreſiſtible; and he made him a preſent of a French miſtreſs, by whoſe means he hoped for the future to govern him. The ducheſs of Orleans brought with her a young lady of the name of Querouaille, whom the king carried to London, and ſoon after created ducheſs of Portſmouth. He was

extremely attached to her during the whole courſe of his life; and ſhe proved a great means of ſupporting his connexions with her native country.

The ſatisfaction which Charles reaped from his new alliance received a great check by the death of his ſiſter, and ſtill more by thoſe melancholy circumſtances which attended it. Her death was ſudden after a few days illneſs, and ſhe was ſeized with the malady upon drinking a glaſs of ſuccory water. Strong ſuſpicions of poiſon aroſe in the court of France, and were ſpread all over Europe; and, as her huſband had diſcovered many ſymptoms of jealouſy and diſcontent on account of her conduct, he was univerſally believed to be the author of the crime. Charles himſelf, during ſome time, was entirely convinced of his guilt; but, upon receiving the atteſtation of phyſicians, who, on opening her body, found no foundation for the general rumour, he was, or pretended to be, ſatisfied. The duke of Orleans indeed did never, in any other circumſtance of his life, betray ſuch diſpoſitions as might lead him to ſo criminal an action; and a lady, it is ſaid, drank the remains of the ſame glaſs without feeling any inconvenience. The ſudden death of princes is commonly accompanied with theſe diſmal ſurmiſes, and therefore leſs weight is in this caſe to be laid on the ſuſpicions of the public.

Charles, inſtead of breaking with France upon this incident, took advantage of it to ſend over Buckingham, under pretence of condoling with the duke of Orleans, but in reality to concert farther meaſures for the projected war. Never ambaſſador received greater careſſes. The more deſtructive the preſent meaſures were to the intereſts of England, the more natural was it for Lewis to load with civilities, and even with favours, thoſe whom he could engage to promote them.

The journey of Buckingham augmented the ſuſpicions in Holland, which every circumſtance tended ſtill farther to confirm.

Lewis made a ſudden irruption into Lorraine; and, though he miſſed ſeizing the duke himſelf, who had no ſurmiſe of the danger, and who narrowly eſcaped, he was ſoon able, without reſiſtance, to make himſelf maſter of the whole country. The French monarch was ſo far unhappy, that, though the moſt tempting opportunities offered themſelves, he had not commonly ſo much as the pretence of equity and juſtice to cover his ambitious meaſures. This acquiſition of Lorraine ought to have excited the jealouſy of the contracting powers in the triple league as much as an invaſion of Flanders itſelf; yet did Charles turn a deaf ear to all remonſtrances made him upon that ſubject.

But what tended chiefly to open the eyes of de Wit and the States, with regard to the meaſures of England, was the ſudden recall of ſir William Temple. This miniſter had ſo firmly eſtabliſhed his character of honour and integrity, that he was believed incapable even of obeying his maſter's commands in promoting meaſures which he eſteemed pernicious to his country; and ſo long as he remained in employment de Wit thought himſelf aſſured of the fidelity of England. Charles was ſo ſenſible of this prepoſſeſſion, that he ordered Temple to leave his family at the Hague; and pretended that that miniſter would immediately return, after having conferred with the king about ſome buſineſs where his negociation had met with obſtructions. De Wit made the Dutch reſident inform the Engliſh court that he ſhould conſider the recall of Temple as an expreſs declaration of a change of meaſures in England; and ſhould even know what interpretation to put upon any delay of his return.

A PARLIAMENT.

While theſe meaſures were ſecretly in agitation the parliament met, according to adjournment. The king made a ſhort ſpeech,

and left the buſineſs to be enlarged upon by the keeper. That miniſter much inſiſted on the king's great want of ſupply; the mighty increaſe of the naval power of France, now triple to what it was before the laſt war with Holland; the decay of the Engliſh navy; the neceſſity of fitting out next year a fleet of fifty ſail; the obligations which the king lay under by ſeveral treaties to exert himſelf for the common good of Chriſtendom. Among other treaties he mentioned the triple alliance, and the defenſive league with the States.

The artifice ſucceeded. The houſe of commons, entirely ſatisfied with the king's meaſures, voted him conſiderable ſupplies. A land tax for a year was impoſed of a ſhilling a pound; two ſhillings a pound on two thirds of the ſalaries of offices; fifteen ſhillings on every hundred pounds of bankers' money and ſtock; an additional exciſe upon beer for ſix years, and certain impoſitions upon law proceedings for nine years. The parliament had never before been in a more liberal humour; and never ſurely was it leſs merited by the counſels of the king and of his miniſters.[1]

The commons paſſed another bill for laying a duty on tobacco, Scotch ſalt, glaſſes, and ſome other commodities. Againſt this bill the merchants of London appeared by petition before the houſe of lords. The lords entered into their reaſons, and began to make amendments on the bill ſent up by the commons. This attempt was highly reſented by the lower houſe, as an encroachment on the right, which they pretended to poſſeſs alone, of granting money to the crown. Many remonſtrances paſſed between the two houſes; and by their altercations the king was obliged to prorogue the parliament; and he thereby loſt the money which was intended him. This is the laſt time that the peers have revived any pretenſions of that nature. Ever ſince the privilege of the commons, in all other places except in the houſe of peers, has paſſed for uncontroverted.

COVENTRY ACT. 1671.

THERE was a private affair, which during this ſeſſion diſguſted the houſe of commons, and required ſome pains to accommodate it. The uſual method of thoſe who oppoſed the court in the money bills was, if they failed in the main vote, as to the extent of the ſupply, to levy the money upon ſuch funds as they expected would be unacceptable, or would prove deficient. It was propoſed to lay an impoſition upon playhouſes: the courtiers objected that the players were the king's ſervants, and a part of his pleaſure. Sir John Coventry, a gentleman of the country party, aſked whether the king's pleaſure lay among the male or the female players? This ſtroke of ſatire was aimed at Charles, who, beſides his miſtreſſes of higher quality, entertained at that time two actreſſes, Davis and Nell Gwin. The king received not the raillery with the good humour which might have been expected. It was ſaid that, this being the firſt time that reſpect to majeſty had been publicly violated, it was neceſſary, by ſome ſevere chaſtiſement, to make Coventry an example to all who might incline to tread in his footſteps. Sands, Obrian, and ſome other officers of the guards, were ordered to way-lay him, and to ſet a mark upon him. He defended himſelf with bravery; and, after wounding ſeveral of the aſſailants, was diſarmed with ſome difficulty. They cut his noſe to the bone, in order, as they ſaid, to teach him what reſpect he owed to the king. The commons were inflamed by this indignity offered to one of their members, on account of words ſpoken in the houſe. They paſſed a law, which made it capital to maim any perſon; and they enacted that thoſe criminals, who had aſſaulted Coventry, ſhould be incapable of receiving a pardon from the crown.

BLOOD'S CRIMES.

THERE was another private affair tranſacted about this time, by which the king was as much expoſed to the imputation of a capricious lenity, as he was here blamed for unneceſſary ſeverity. Blood, a diſbanded officer of the protector's, had been engaged in the conſpiracy for raiſing an inſurrection in Ireland; and on account of this crime he himſelf had been attainted, and ſome of his accomplices capitally puniſhed. The daring villain meditated revenge upon Ormond, the lord lieutenant. Having by artifice drawn off the duke's footmen, he attacked his coach in the night-time, as it drove along St. James's-ſtreet in London; and he made himſelf maſter of his perſon. He might here have finiſhed the crime, had he not meditated refinements in his vengeance: he was reſolved to hang the duke at Tyburn; and for that purpoſe bound him, and mounted him on horſeback behind one of his companions. They were advanced a good way into the fields, when the duke, making efforts for his liberty, threw himſelf to the ground, and brought down with him the aſſaſſin to whom he was faſtened. They were ſtruggling together in the mire, when Ormond's ſervants, whom the alarm had reached, came and ſaved him. Blood and his companions, firing their piſtols in a hurry at the duke, rode off, and ſaved themſelves by means of the darkneſs.

Buckingham was at firſt, with ſome appearances of reaſon, ſuſpected to be the author of this attempt. His profligate character, and his enmity againſt Ormond, expoſed him to that imputation. Offory ſoon after came to court; and, ſeeing Buckingham ſtand by the king, his colour roſe, and he could not forbear expreſſing himſelf to this purpoſe: 'My lord, I know well that you are at the bottom of this late attempt upon my

father: but I give you warning; if by any means he come to a violent end, I ſhall not be at a loſs to know the author: I ſhall conſider you as the aſſaſſin: I ſhall treat you as ſuch; and wherever I meet you I ſhall piſtol you, though you ſtood behind the king's chair; and I tell it you in his majeſty's preſence, that you may be ſure [k] I ſhall not fail of performance.' If there was here any indecorum, it was eaſily excuſed in a generous youth when his father's life was expoſed to danger.

A little after Blood formed a deſign of carrying off the crown and regalia from the tower; a deſign to which he was prompted as well by the ſurpriſing boldneſs of the enterpriſe as by the views of profit. He was near ſucceeding. He had bound and wounded Edwards, the keeper of the jewel-office, and had gotten out of the tower with his prey; but was overtaken and ſeized, with ſome of his aſſociates. One of them was known to have been concerned in the attempt upon Ormond; and Blood was immediately concluded to be the ringleader. When queſtioned he frankly avowed the enterpriſe, but refuſed to tell his accomplices. 'The fear of death,' he ſaid, 'ſhould never engage him either to deny a guilt or betray a friend.' All theſe extraordinary circumſtances made him the general ſubject of converſation; and the king was moved, by an idle curioſity, to ſee and ſpeak with a perſon ſo noted for his courage and his crimes. Blood might now eſteem himſelf ſecure of pardon; and he wanted not addreſs to improve the opportunity. He told Charles that he had been engaged, with others, in a deſign to kill him with a carbine above Batterſea, where his majeſty often went to bathe: that the cauſe of this reſolution was the ſeverity exerciſed over the conſciences of the godly, in reſtraining the liberty of their religious aſſemblies: that, when he had taken his ſtand among the reeds, full of theſe bloody reſolutions, he found his heart checked with an awe of majeſty; and he not

only relented himſelf, but diverted his aſſociates from their purpoſe: that he had long ago brought himſelf to an entire indifference about life, which he now gave for loſt; yet could he not forbear warning the king of the danger which might attend his execution: that his aſſociates had bound themſelves by the ſtricteſt oaths to revenge the death of any of the confederacy; and that no precaution or power could ſecure any one from the effects of their deſperate reſolutions.

Whether theſe conſiderations excited fear or admiration in the king, they confirmed his reſolution of granting a pardon to Blood; but he thought it a point of decency firſt to obtain the duke of Ormond's conſent. Arlington came to Ormond in the king's name, and deſired that he would not proſecute Blood, for reaſons which he was commanded to give him. The duke replied that his majeſty's commands were the only reaſon that could be given; and, being ſufficient, he might therefore ſpare the reſt. Charles carried his kindneſs to Blood ſtill farther: he granted him an eſtate of five hundred pounds a year in Ireland; he encouraged his attendance about his perſon; he ſhewed him great countenance, and many applied to him for promoting their pretenſions at court. And, while old Edwards, who had bravely ventured his life, and had been wounded, in defending the crown and regalia, was forgotten and neglected, this man, who deſerved only to be ſtared at, and deteſted as a monſter, became a kind of favourite.

DUKE DECLARES HIMSELF CATHOLIC.

Errors of this nature in private life have often as bad an influence as miſcarriages, in which the public is more immediately concerned. Another incident happened this year which infuſed a general diſpleaſure, and ſtill greater apprehenſions, into all

men. The ducheſs of York died; and in her laſt ſickneſs ſhe made open profeſſion of the Romiſh religion, and finiſhed her life in that communion. This put an end to that thin diſguiſe which the duke had hitherto worn, and he now openly declared his converſion to the church of Rome. Unaccountable terrors of popery, ever ſince the acceſſion of the houſe of Stuart, had prevailed throughout the nation; but theſe had formerly been found ſo groundleſs, and had been employed to ſo many bad purpoſes, that ſurmiſes of this nature were likely to meet with the leſs credit among all men of ſenſe; and nothing but the duke's imprudent bigotry could have convinced the whole nation of his change of religion. Popery, which had hitherto been only a hideous ſpectre, was now become a real ground of terror, being openly and zealouſly embraced by the heir to the crown, a prince of induſtry and enterpriſe; while the king himſelf was not entirely free from like ſuſpicions.

It is probable that the new alliance with France inſpired the duke with the courage to make open profeſſion of his religion, and rendered him more careleſs of the affections and eſteem of the Engliſh. This alliance became every day more apparent. Temple was declared to be no longer ambaſſador to the States; and Downing, whom the Dutch regarded as the inveterate enemy of their republic, was ſent over in his ſtead. A ground of quarrel was ſought by means of a yacht diſpatched for lady Temple. The captain ſailed through the Dutch fleet, which lay on their own coaſts; and he had orders to make them ſtrike, to fire on them, and to perſevere till they ſhould return his fire. The Dutch admiral, Van Ghent, ſurpriſed at this bravado, came on board the yacht, and expreſſed his willingneſs to pay reſpect to the Britiſh flag, according to former practice: but that a fleet, on their own coaſts, ſhould ſtrike to a ſingle veſſel, and that not a ſhip of war, was, he ſaid, ſuch an innovation, that he durſt not,

without expreſs orders, agree to it. The captain, thinking it dangerous, as well as abſurd, to renew firing in the midſt of the Dutch fleet, continued his courſe; and for that neglect of orders was committed to the tower.

This incident, however, furniſhed Downing with a new article to increaſe thoſe vain pretences, on which it was purpoſed to ground the intended rupture. The Engliſh court delayed ſeveral months before they complained; leſt, if they had demanded ſatisfaction more early, the Dutch might have had time to grant it. Even when Downing delivered his memorial he was bound by his inſtructions not to accept of any ſatisfaction after a certain number of days; a very imperious manner of negociating, and impracticable in Holland, where the forms of the republic render delays abſolutely unavoidable. An anſwer, however, though refuſed by Downing, was ſent over to London, with an ambaſſador extraordinary, who had orders to uſe every expedient that might give ſatisfaction to the court of England. That court replied that the anſwer of the Hollanders was ambiguous and obſcure; but they would not ſpecify the articles or expreſſions which were liable to that objection. The Dutch ambaſſador deſired the Engliſh miniſtry to draw the anſwer in what terms they pleaſed, and he engaged to ſign it: the Engliſh miniſtry replied that it was not their buſineſs to draw papers for the Dutch. The ambaſſador brought them the draught of an article, and aſked them whether it were ſatisfactory: the Engliſh anſwered that, when he had ſigned and delivered it, they would tell him their mind concerning it. The Dutchman reſolved to ſign it at a venture; and on his demanding a new audience an hour was appointed for that purpoſe: but when he attended the Engliſh refuſed to enter upon buſineſs, and told him that the ſeaſon for negociating was now paſt.*

Long and frequent prorogations were made of the parliament; leſt the houſes ſhould declare themſelves with vigour againſt counſels ſo oppoſite to the inclination as well as intereſts of the public. Could we ſuppoſe that Charles, in his alliance againſt Holland, really meant the good of his people, that meaſure muſt paſs for an extraordinary, nay, a romantic ſtrain of patriotiſm, which could lead him, in ſpite of all difficulties, and even in ſpite of themſelves, to ſeek the welfare of the nation. But every ſtep which he took in this affair became a proof, to all men of penetration, that the preſent war was intended againſt the religion and liberties of his own ſubjects, even more than againſt the Dutch themſelves. He now acted in every thing as if he were already an abſolute monarch, and was never more to lie under the control of national aſſemblies.

The long prorogations of parliament, if they freed the king from the importunate remonſtrances of that aſſembly, were however attended with this inconvenience, that no money could be procured to carry on the military preparations againſt Holland. Under pretence of maintaining the triple league, which at that very time he had firmly reſolved to break, Charles had obtained a large ſupply from the commons; but this money was ſoon exhauſted by debts and expenſes. France had ſtipulated to pay two hundred thouſand pounds a year during the war; but that ſupply was inconſiderable, compared to the immenſe charge of the Engliſh navy. It ſeemed as yet premature to venture on levying money without conſent of parliament, ſince the power of taxing themſelves was the privilege of which the Engliſh were, with reaſon, particularly jealous. Some other reſource muſt be fallen on. The king had declared that the ſtaff of treaſurer was ready for any one that could find an expedient for ſupplying the preſent neceſſities. Shafteſbury dropped a hint to Clifford, which the latter immediately ſeized, and carried to the king,

who granted him the promiſed reward, together with a peerage. This expedient was the ſhutting up of the exchequer, and the retaining of all the payments which ſhould be made into it.

EXCHEQUER SHUT. 1672.

It had been uſual for the bankers to carry their money to the exchequer, and to advance it upon ſecurity of the funds, by which they were afterwards reimburſed when the money was levied on the public. The bankers, by this traffic, got eight, ſometimes ten, per cent. for ſums which either had been conſigned to them without intereſt, or which they had borrowed at ſix per cent. profits which they dearly paid for by this egregious breach of public faith. The meaſure was ſo ſuddenly taken, that none had warning of the danger. A general confuſion prevailed in the city, followed by the ruin of many. The bankers ſtopped payment; the merchants could anſwer no bills; diſtruſt took place every where, with a ſtagnation of commerce, by which the public was univerſally affected. And men, full of diſmal apprehenſions, aſked each other what muſt be the ſcope of thoſe myſterious counſels whence the parliament and all men of honour were excluded, and which commenced by the forfeiture of public credit, and an open violation of the moſt ſolemn engagements, both foreign and domeſtic.

DECLARATION OF INDULGENCE.

Another meaſure of the court contains ſomething laudable when conſidered in itſelf; but, if we reflect on the motive whence it proceeded, as well as the time when it was embraced, it will furniſh a ſtrong proof of the arbitrary and dangerous counſels purſued at preſent by the king and his miniſtry.

Charles reſolved to make uſe of his ſupreme power in eccleſiaſtical matters; a power, he ſaid, which was not only inherent in him, but which had been recognized by ſeveral acts of parliament. By virtue of this authority he iſſued a proclamation, ſuſpending the penal laws enacted againſt all nonconformiſts or recuſants whatſoever; and granting to the proteſtant diſſenters the public exerciſe of their religion, to the catholics the exerciſe of it in private houſes. A fruitleſs experiment of this kind, oppoſed by the parliament, and retracted by the king, had already been made a few years after the reſtoration; but Charles expected that the parliament, whenever it ſhould meet, would now be tamed to greater ſubmiſſion, and would no longer dare to control his meaſures. Meanwhile the diſſenters, the moſt inveterate enemies of the court, were mollified by theſe indulgent maxims; and the catholics, under their ſhelter, enjoyed more liberty than the laws had hitherto allowed them.

At the ſame time the act of navigation was ſuſpended by royal will and pleaſure; a meaſure which, though a ſtretch of prerogative, ſeemed uſeful to commerce while all the ſeamen were employed on board the royal navy. A like ſuſpenſion had been granted during the firſt Dutch war, and was not much remarked; becauſe men had at that time entertained leſs jealouſy of the crown. A proclamation was alſo iſſued, containing rigorous clauſes in favour of preſſing; another full of menaces againſt thoſe who preſumed to ſpeak undutifully of his majeſty's meaſures, and even againſt thoſe who heard ſuch diſcourſe, unleſs they informed in due time againſt the offenders; another againſt importing or vending any ſort of painted earthen ware, 'except thoſe of China, upon pain of being grievouſly fined, and ſuffering the utmoſt puniſhment, which might be lawfully inflicted upon contemners of his majeſty's royal authority.' An army had been levied; and it was found that diſcipline could

not be enforced without the exercife of martial law, which was therefore eftablifhed by order of council, though contrary to the petition of right. All thefe acts of power, how little important foever in themfelves, favoured ftrongly of arbitrary government, and were nowife fuitable to that legal adminiftration which the parliament, after fuch violent convulfions and civil wars, had hoped to have eftablifhed in the kingdom.

It may be worth remarking that the lord-keeper refufed to affix the great feal to the declaration for fufpending the penal laws; and was for that reafon, though under other pretences, removed from his office. Shaftefbury was made chancellor in his place; and thus another member of the Cabal received the reward of his counfels.

ATTACK OF THE SMYRNA FLEET.

Foreign tranfactions kept pace with thefe domeftic occurrences. An attempt, before the declaration of war, was made on the Dutch Smyrna fleet by fir Robert Holmes. This fleet confifted of feventy fail, valued at a million and a half; and the hopes of feizing fo rich a prey had been a great motive for engaging Charles in the prefent war, and he had confidered that capture as a principal refource for fupporting his military enterprifes. Holmes, with nine frigates and three yachts, had orders to go on this command; and he paffed Sprague in the channel, who was returning with a fquadron from a cruize in the Mediterranean. Sprague informed him of the near approach of the Hollanders; and, had not Holmes, from a defire of engroffing the honour and profit of the enterprife, kept the fecret of his orders, the conjunction of thefe fquadrons had rendered the fuccefs infallible. When Holmes approached the Dutch he put on an amicable appearance, and invited the admiral Van Nefs,

who commanded the convoy, to come on board of him: one of his captains gave a like inſidious invitation to the rear-admiral. But theſe officers were on their guard. They had received an intimation of the hoſtile intentions of the Engliſh, and had already put all the ſhips of war and merchantmen in an excellent poſture of defence. Three times were they valiantly aſſailed by the Engliſh, and as often did they valiantly defend themſelves. In the third attack one of the Dutch ſhips of war was taken, and three or four of their moſt inconſiderable merchantmen fell into the enemies' hands: the reſt, fighting with ſkill and courage, continued their courſe; and, favoured by a miſt, got ſafe into their own harbours. This attempt is denominated perfidious and piratical by the Dutch writers, and even by many of the Engliſh. It merits at leaſt the appellation of irregular; and, as it had been attended with bad ſucceſs, it brought double ſhame upon the contrivers. The Engliſh miniſtry endeavoured to apologize for the action by pretending that it was a caſual rencounter, ariſing from the obſtinacy of the Dutch in refuſing the honours of the flag; but the contrary was ſo well known, that even Holmes himſelf had not the aſſurance to perſiſt in this aſſeveration.

WAR DECLARED WITH HOLLAND.

Till this incident the States, notwithſtanding all the menaces and preparations of the Engliſh, never believed them thoroughly in earneſt; and had always expected that the affair would terminate, either in ſome demands of money, or in ſome propoſals for the advancement of the prince of Orange. The French themſelves had never much reckoned on aſſiſtance from England; and ſcarcely could believe that their ambitious projects would, contrary to every maxim of honour and policy, be forwarded by

that power which was moſt intereſted, and moſt able to oppoſe them. But Charles was too far advanced to retreat. He immediately iſſued a declaration of war againſt the Dutch; and ſurely reaſons more falſe and frivolous never were employed to juſtify a flagrant violation of treaty. Some complaints are there made of injuries done to the Eaſt India company, which yet that company diſavowed: the detention of ſome Engliſh in Surinam is mentioned; though it appears that theſe perſons had voluntarily remained there: the refuſal of a Dutch fleet, on their own coaſts, to ſtrike to an Engliſh yacht, is much aggravated: and, to piece up all theſe pretenſions, ſome abuſive pictures are mentioned, and repreſented as a ground of quarrel. The Dutch were long at a loſs what to make of this article; till it was diſcovered that a portrait of Cornelius de Wit, brother to the penſionary, painted by order of certain magiſtrates of Dort, and hung up in a chamber of the town-houſe, had given occaſion to the complaint. In the perſpective of this portrait the painter had drawn ſome ſhips on fire in a harbour. This was conſtrued to be Chatham, where de Wit had really diſtinguiſhed himſelf, and had acquired honour; but little did he imagine that, while the inſult itſelf, committed in open war, had ſo long been forgiven, the picture of it ſhould draw ſuch ſevere vengeance upon his country. The concluſion of this manifeſto, where the king ſtill profeſſed his reſolution of adhering to the triple alliance, was of a piece with the reſt of it.

Lewis's declaration of war contained more dignity, if undiſguiſed violence and injuſtice could merit that appellation. He pretended only that the behaviour of the Hollanders had been ſuch, that it did not conſiſt with his glory any longer to bear it. That monarch's preparations were in great forwardneſs; and his ambition was flattered with the moſt promiſing views of ſucceſs. Sweden was detached from the triple league: the

biſhop of Munſter was engaged by the payment of ſubſidies to take part with France: the elector of Cologne had entered into the ſame alliance; and, having conſigned Bonne and other towns into the hands of Lewis, magazines were there erected; and it was from that quarter that France purpoſed to invade the United Provinces. The ſtanding force of that kingdom amounted to a hundred and eighty thouſand men; and with more than half of this great army was the French king now approaching to the Dutch frontiers. The order, economy, and induſtry, of Colbert, equally ſubſervient to the ambition of the prince and happineſs of the people, furniſhed unexhauſted treaſures: theſe, employed by the unrelenting vigilance of Louvois, ſupplied every military preparation, and facilitated all the enterpriſes of the army: Conde, Turenne, ſeconded by Luxembourg, Crequi, and the moſt renowned generals of the age, conducted this army, and by their conduct and reputation inſpired courage into every one. The monarch himſelf, ſurrounded with a brave nobility, animated his troops by the proſpect of reward; or, what was more valued, by the hopes of his approbation. The fatigues of war gave no interruption to gaiety; its dangers furniſhed matter for glory; and in no enterpriſe did the genius of that gallant and polite people ever break out with more diſtinguiſhed luſtre.

Though de Wit's intelligence in foreign courts was not equal to the vigilance of his domeſtic adminiſtration, he had long before received many ſurmiſes of this fatal confederacy; but he prepared not for defence ſo early, or with ſuch induſtry, as the danger required. A union of England with France was evidently, he ſaw, deſtructive to the intereſts of the former kingdom; and therefore, overlooking or ignorant of the humours and ſecret views of Charles, he concluded it impoſſible that ſuch pernicious projects could ever really be carried into execution.

Secure in this fallacious reaſoning, he allowed the republic to remain too long in that defenceleſs ſituation into which many concurring accidents had conſpired to throw her.

WEAKNESS OF THE STATES.

By a continued and ſucceſsful application to commerce, the people were become unwarlike, and confided entirely for their defence in that mercenary army which they maintained. After the treaty of Weſtphalia, the States, truſting to their peace with Spain and their alliance with France, had broken a great part of this army, and did not ſupport with ſufficient vigilance the diſcipline of the troops which remained. When the ariſtocratic party prevailed it was thought prudent to diſmiſs many of the old experienced officers, who were devoted to the houſe of Orange; and their place was ſupplied by raw youths, the ſons or kinſmen of burgomaſters, by whoſe intereſt the party was ſupported. Theſe new officers, relying on the credit of their friends and family, neglected their military duty; and ſome of them, it is ſaid, were even allowed to ſerve by deputies, to whom they aſſigned a ſmall part of their pay. During the war with England all the forces of that nation had been diſbanded; Lewis's invaſion of Flanders, followed by the triple league, occaſioned the diſmiſſion of the French regiments; and the place of theſe troops, which had ever had a chief ſhare in the honour and fortune of all the wars in the Low Countries, had not been ſupplied by any new levies.

De Wit, ſenſible of this dangerous ſituation, and alarmed by the reports which came from all quarters, exerted himſelf to ſupply thoſe defects, to which it was not eaſy of a ſudden to provide a ſuitable remedy. But every propoſal which he could make met with oppoſition from the Orange party, now become

extremely formidable. The long and uncontrolled adminiſtration of this ſtateſman had begotten envy; the preſent incidents rouſed up his enemies and opponents, who aſcribed to his miſconduct alone the bad ſituation of the republic; and, above all, the popular affection to the young prince, which had ſo long been held in violent conſtraint, and had thence acquired new acceſſions of force, began to diſplay itſelf, and to threaten the commonwealth with ſome great convulſion. William III, prince of Orange, was in the twenty-ſecond year of his age, and gave ſtrong indications of thoſe great qualities by which his life was afterwards ſo much diſtinguiſhed. De Wit himſelf, by giving him an excellent education, and inſtructing him in all the principles of government and ſound policy, had generouſly contributed to make his rival formidable. Dreading the precarious ſituation of his own party, he was always reſolved, he ſaid, by conveying to the prince the knowledge of affairs, to render him capable of ſerving his country, if any future emergence ſhould ever throw the adminiſtration into his hands. The conduct of William had hitherto been extremely laudable. Notwithſtanding his powerful alliances with England and Brandenburgh, he had expreſſed his reſolution of depending entirely on the States for his advancement; and the whole tenor of his behaviour ſuited extremely the genius of that people. Silent and thoughtful; given to hear and to inquire; of a ſound and ſteady underſtanding; firm in what he once reſolved or once denied; ſtrongly intent on buſineſs, little on pleaſure: by theſe virtues he engaged the attention of all men. And the people, ſenſible that they owed their liberty, and very exiſtence, to his family, and remembering that his great uncle Maurice had been able, even in more early youth, to defend them againſt the exorbitant power of Spain, were deſirous of raiſing this prince to all the authority of his anceſtors; and hoped, from his valour and conduct alone,

to receive protection againſt thoſe imminent dangers with which they were at preſent threatened.

While theſe two powerful factions ſtruggled for ſuperiority every ſcheme for defence was oppoſed, every project retarded; what was determined with difficulty was executed without vigour. Levies indeed were made, and the army completed to ſeventy thouſand men.[m] The prince was appointed both general and admiral of the commonwealth, and the whole military power was put into his hands. But new troops could not of a ſudden acquire diſcipline and experience: and the partiſans of the prince were ſtill unſatisfied as long as the perpetual edict, ſo it was called, remained in force; by which he was excluded from the ſtadtholderſhip, and from all ſhare in the civil adminiſtration.

It had always been the maxim of de Wit's party to cultivate naval affairs with extreme care, and to give the fleet a preference above the army, which they repreſented as the object of an unreaſonable partiality in the princes of Orange. The two violent wars, which had of late been waged with England, had exerciſed the valour and improved the ſkill of the ſailors: and, above all, de Ruyter, the great ſea commander of the age, was cloſely connected with the Louveſtein party; and every one was diſpoſed, with confidence and alacrity, to obey him. The equipment of the fleet was therefore haſtened by de Wit; in hopes that, by ſtriking at firſt a ſucceſsful blow, he might inſpire courage into the diſmayed States, and ſupport his own declining authority. He ſeems to have been, in a peculiar manner, incenſed againſt the Engliſh; and he reſolved to take revenge on them for their conduct, of which he thought he himſelf and his country had ſuch reaſon to complain. By the offer of a cloſe alliance for mutual defence they had ſeduced the republic to quit the alliance of France; but no ſooner had ſhe embraced theſe meaſures than they formed leagues for her deſtruction,

with that very power which they had treacherouſly engaged her to offend. In the midſt of full peace, nay, during an intimate union, they attacked her commerce, her only means of ſubſiſtence; and, moved by ſhameful rapacity, had invaded that property which, from a reliance on their faith, they had hoped to find unprotected and defenceleſs. Contrary to their own manifeſt intereſt, as well as to their honour, they ſtill retained a malignant reſentment for her ſucceſsful concluſion of the former war; a war which had at firſt ſprung from their own wanton inſolence and ambition. To repreſs ſo dangerous an enemy would, de Wit imagined, give peculiar pleaſure, and contribute to the future ſecurity of his country, whoſe proſperity was ſo much the object of general envy.

BATTLE OF SOLEBAY.....SANDWICH KILLED.

Actuated by like motives and views, de Ruyter put to ſea with a formidable fleet, conſiſting of ninety-one ſhips of war and forty-four fire-ſhips. Cornelius de Wit was on board as deputy from the States. They ſailed in queſt of the Engliſh, who were under the command of the duke of York, and who had already joined the French under mareſchal d'Etrees. The combined fleets lay at Solebay in a very negligent poſture; and Sandwich, being an experienced officer, had given the duke warning of the danger; but received, it is ſaid, ſuch an anſwer as intimated that there was more of caution than of courage in his apprehenſions. Upon the appearance of the enemy every one ran to his poſt with precipitation, and many ſhips were obliged to cut their cables, in order to be in readineſs. Sandwich commanded the van; and, though determined to conquer or to periſh, he ſo tempered his courage with prudence, that the whole fleet was viſibly indebted to him for its ſafety. He

haſtened out of the bay, where it had been eaſy for de Ruyter with his fire-ſhips to have deſtroyed the combined fleets, which were crowded together; and by this wiſe meaſure he gave time to the duke of York, who commanded the main body, and to mareſchal d'Etrees, admiral of the rear, to diſengage themſelves. He himſelf meanwhile ruſhed into battle with the Hollanders; and, by preſenting himſelf to every danger, had drawn upon him all the braveſt of the enemy. He killed Van Ghent, a Dutch admiral, and beat off his ſhip; he ſunk another ſhip, which ventured to lay him aboard; he ſunk three fire-ſhips, which endeavoured to grapple with him; and, though his veſſel was torn in pieces with ſhot, and of a thouſand men ſhe contained near ſix hundred were laid dead upon the deck, he continued ſtill to thunder with all his artillery in the midſt of the enemy: but another fire-ſhip, more fortunate than the preceding, having laid hold of his veſſel, her deſtruction was now inevitable. Warned by ſir Edward Haddock, his captain, he refuſed to make his eſcape, and bravely embraced death as a ſhelter from that ignominy which a raſh expreſſion of the duke's, he thought, had thrown upon him.

During this fierce engagement with Sandwich de Ruyter remained not inactive. He attacked the duke of York, and fought him with ſuch fury for above two hours, that, of two-and-thirty actions in which that admiral had been engaged, he declared this combat to be the moſt obſtinately diſputed. The duke's ſhip was ſo ſhattered that he was obliged to leave her, and remove his flag to another. His ſquadron was overpowered with numbers, till ſir Joſeph Jordan, who had ſucceeded to Sandwich's command, came to his aſſiſtance; and the fight, being more equally balanced, was continued till night, when the Dutch retired, and were not followed by the Engliſh. The loſs ſuſtained by the fleets of the two maritime powers was nearly equal, if

EARL SANDWICH REFUSING TO LEAVE HIS SHIP WHILE ON FIRE, IN THE BATTLE OF SOLE BAY.

it did not rather fall more heavy on the Engliſh. The French ſuffered very little, becauſe they had ſcarcely been engaged in the action; and, as this backwardneſs is not their national character, it was concluded that they had received ſecret orders to ſpare their ſhips, while the Dutch and Engliſh ſhould weaken each other by their mutual animoſity. Almoſt all the other actions during the preſent war tended to confirm this ſuſpicion.

PROGRESS OF THE FRENCH.

It might be deemed honourable for the Dutch to have fought with ſome advantage the combined fleets of two ſuch powerful nations; but nothing leſs than a complete victory could ſerve the purpoſe of de Wit, or ſave his country from thoſe calamities which from every quarter threatened to overwhelm her. He had expected that the French would make their attack on the ſide of Maeſtricht, which was well fortified, and provided with a good garriſon; but Lewis, taking advantage of his alliance with Cologne, reſolved to invade the enemy on that frontier which he knew to be more feeble and defenceleſs. The armies of that elector, and thoſe of Munſter, appeared on the other ſide of the Rhine, and divided the force and attention of the States. The Dutch troops, too weak to defend ſo extenſive a frontier, were ſcattered into ſo many towns, that no conſiderable body remained in the field; and a ſtrong garriſon was ſcarcely to be found in any fortreſs. Lewis paſſed the Meuſe at Viſet; and, laying ſiege to Orſoi, a town of the elector of Brandenburgh, but garriſoned by the Dutch, he carried it in three days. He divided his army, and inveſted at once Burik, Weſel, Emerik, and Rhimberg, four places regularly fortified, and not unprovided with troops: in a few days all theſe places were ſurrendered. A general aſtoniſhment had ſeized the Hollanders, from

the combination of ſuch powerful princes againſt the republic; and no where was reſiſtance made ſuitable to the ancient glory or preſent greatneſs of the ſtate. Governors without experience commanded troops without diſcipline; and deſpair had univerſally extinguiſhed that ſenſe of honour by which alone men, in ſuch dangerous extremities, can be animated to a valorous defence.

Lewis advanced to the banks of the Rhine, which he prepared to paſs. To all the other calamities of the Dutch was added the extreme drought of the ſeaſon, by which the greateſt rivers were much diminiſhed, and in ſome places rendered fordable. The French cavalry, animated by the preſence of their prince, full of impetuous courage, but ranged in exact order, flung themſelves into the river; the infantry paſſed in boats; a few regiments of Dutch appeared on the other ſide, who were unable to make reſiſtance. And thus was executed, without danger, but not without glory, the paſſage of the Rhine; ſo much celebrated at that time by the flattery of the French courtiers, and tranſmitted to poſterity by the more durable flattery of their poets.

Each ſucceſs added courage to the conquerors, and ſtruck the vanquiſhed with diſmay. The prince of Orange, though prudent beyond his age, was but newly advanced to the command, unacquainted with the army, unknown to them; and all men, by reaſon of the violent factions which prevailed, were uncertain of the authority on which they muſt depend. It was expected that the fort of Skink, famous for the ſieges which it had formerly ſuſtained, would make ſome reſiſtance; but it yielded to Turenne in a few days. The ſame general made himſelf maſter of Arnheim, Knotzembourg, and Nimeguen, as ſoon as he appeared before them: Doeſbourg at the ſame time opened its gates to Lewis: ſoon after Harderwic, Amersfort, Campen, Rhenen,

Viane, Elberg, Zwol, Cuilemberg, Wageninguen, Lochem, Woerden, fell into the enemies' hands. Groll and Deventer ſurrendered to the mareſchal Luxembourg, who commanded the troops of Munſter. And every hour brought to the States news of the rapid progreſs of the French, and of the cowardly defence of their own garriſons.

The prince of Orange, with his ſmall and diſcouraged army, retired into the province of Holland; where he expected, from the natural ſtrength of the country, ſince all human art and courage failed, to be able to make ſome reſiſtance. The town and province of Utrecht ſent deputies, and ſurrendered themſelves to Lewis. Naerden, a place within three leagues of Amſterdam, was ſeized by the marquis of Rochfort; and, had he puſhed on to Muyden, he had eaſily gotten poſſeſſion of it. Fourteen ſtragglers of his army having appeared before the gates of that town, the magiſtrates ſent them the keys; but a ſervant maid, who was alone in the caſtle, having raiſed the drawbridge, kept them from taking poſſeſſion of that fortreſs. The magiſtrates afterwards, finding the party ſo weak, made them drunk, and took the keys from them. Muyden is ſo near to Amſterdam, that its cannon may infeſt the ſhips which enter that city.

Lewis with a ſplendid court made a ſolemn entry into Utrecht, full of glory, becauſe every where attended with ſucceſs; though more owing to the cowardice and miſconduct of his enemies than to his own valour or prudence. Three provinces were already in his hands, Guelderland, Overyſſel, and Utrecht: Groningen was threatened; Friezeland was expoſed: the only difficulty lay in Holland and Zealand; and the monarch deliberated concerning the proper meaſures for reducing them. Conde and Turenne exhorted him to diſmantle all the towns which he had taken, except a few; and, fortifying his main army by the gar-

riſons, put himſelf in a condition of puſhing his conqueſts. Louvois, hoping that the other provinces, weak and diſmayed, would prove an eaſy prey, adviſed him to keep poſſeſſion of places which might afterwards ſerve to retain the people in ſubjection. His counſel was followed; though it was found, ſoon after, to have been the moſt impolitic.

CONSTERNATION OF THE DUTCH.

MEANWHILE the people, throughout the republic, inſtead of collecting a noble indignation againſt the haughty conqueror, diſcharged their rage upon their own unhappy miniſter, on whoſe prudence and integrity every one formerly beſtowed the merited applauſe. The bad condition of the armies was laid to his charge: the ill choice of governors was aſcribed to his partiality: as inſtances of cowardice multiplied, treachery was ſuſpected; and, his former connexions with France being remembered, the populace believed that he and his partiſans had now combined to betray them to their moſt mortal enemy. The prince of Orange, notwithſtanding his youth and inexperience, was looked on as the only ſaviour of the ſtate; and men were violently driven by their fears into his party, to which they had always been led by favour and inclination.

Amſterdam alone ſeemed to retain ſome courage; and, by forming a regular plan of defence, endeavoured to infuſe ſpirit into the other cities. The magiſtrates obliged the burgeſſes to keep a ſtrict watch: the populace, whom want of employment might engage to mutiny, were maintained by regular pay, and armed for the defence of the public. Some ſhips, which lay uſeleſs in the harbour, were refitted, and ſtationed to guard the city; and, the ſluices being opened, the neighbouring country, without regard to the damage ſuſtained, was laid under water.

All the provinces followed the example, and ſcrupled not, in this extremity, to reſtore to the ſea thoſe fertile fields which with great art and expenſe had been won from it.

The ſtates were aſſembled to conſider whether any means were left to ſave the remains of their lately flouriſhing, and now diſtreſſed, commonwealth. Though they were ſurrounded with waters, which barred all acceſs to the enemy, their deliberations were not conducted with that tranquillity which could alone ſuggeſt meaſures proper to extricate them from their preſent difficulties. The nobles gave their vote that, provided their religion, liberty, and ſovereignty, could be ſaved, every thing elſe ſhould without ſcruple be ſacrificed to the conqueror. Eleven towns concurred in the ſame ſentiments. Amſterdam ſingly declared againſt all treaty with inſolent and triumphant enemies: but, notwithſtanding that oppoſition, ambaſſadors were diſpatched to implore the pity of the two combined monarchs. It was reſolved to ſacrifice to Lewis Maeſtricht, and all the frontier towns which lay without the bounds of the ſeven provinces; and to pay him a large ſum for the charges of the war.

Lewis deliberated with his miniſters Louvois and Pomponne concerning the meaſures which he ſhould embrace in the preſent emergence; and, fortunately for Europe, he ſtill preferred the violent counſels of the former. He offered to evacuate his conqueſts on condition that all duties, lately impoſed on the commodities of France, ſhould be taken off: that the public exerciſe of the Romiſh religion ſhould be permitted in the United Provinces; the churches ſhared with the catholics, and their prieſts maintained by appointments from the States: that all the frontier towns of the republic ſhould be yielded to him, together with Nimeguen, Skink, Knotzembourg, and that part of Guelderland which lay on the other ſide of the Rhine; as likewiſe the iſle of Brommel, that of Voorn, the fortreſs of St. An-

drew, thoſe of Louveſtein and Crevecœur: that the States ſhould pay him the ſum of twenty millions of livres for the charges of the war: that they ſhould every year ſend him a ſolemn embaſſy, and preſent him with a golden medal, as an acknowledgment that they owed to him the preſervation of their liberty, which, by the aſſiſtance of his predeceſſors, they had formerly acquired; and that they ſhould give entire ſatisfaction to the king of England. And he allowed them but ten days for the acceptance of theſe demands.

The ambaſſadors ſent to London met with ſtill worſe reception; no miniſter was allowed to treat with them, and they were retained in a kind of confinement. But, notwithſtanding this rigorous conduct of the court, the preſence of the Dutch ambaſſadors excited the ſentiments of tender compaſſion, and even indignation, among the people in general, eſpecially among thoſe who could foreſee the aim and reſult of thoſe dangerous counſels. The two moſt powerful monarchs, they ſaid, in Europe, the one by land, the other by ſea, have, contrary to the faith of ſolemn treaties, combined to exterminate an illuſtrious republic: what a diſmal proſpect does their ſucceſs afford to the neighbours of the one, and to the ſubjects of the other? Charles had formed the triple league in order to reſtrain the power of France; a ſure proof that he does not now err from ignorance. He had courted and obtained the applauſes of his people by that wiſe meaſure: as he now adopts contrary counſels, he muſt ſurely expect by their means to render himſelf independent of his people, whoſe ſentiments are become ſo indifferent to him. During the entire ſubmiſſion of the nation, and dutiful behaviour of the parliament, dangerous projects, without provocation, are formed to reduce them to ſubjection; and all the foreign intereſts of the people are ſacrificed in order the more ſurely to bereave them of their domeſtic liberties. Leſt any

inſtance of freedom ſhould remain within their view, the United Provinces, the real barrier of England, muſt be abandoned to the moſt dangerous enemy of England; and, by an univerſal combination of tyranny againſt laws and liberty, all mankind, who have retained in any degree their precious, though hitherto precarious, birthrights, are for ever to ſubmit to ſlavery and injuſtice.

Though the fear of giving umbrage to his confederate had engaged Charles to treat the Dutch ambaſſadors with ſuch rigour, he was not altogether without uneaſineſs, on account of the rapid and unexpected progreſs of the French arms. Were Holland entirely conquered, its whole commerce and naval force, he perceived, muſt become an acceſſion to France; the Spaniſh Low Countries muſt ſoon follow; and Lewis, now independent of his ally, would no longer think it his intereſt to ſupport him againſt his diſcontented ſubjects. Charles, though he never carried his attention to very diſtant conſequences, could not but foreſee theſe obvious events; and, though incapable of envy or jealouſy, he was touched with anxiety when he found every thing yield to the French arms, while ſuch vigorous reſiſtance was made to his own. He ſoon diſmiſſed the Dutch ambaſſadors, leſt they ſhould cabal among his ſubjects, who bore them great favour; but he ſent over Buckingham and Arlington, and ſoon after lord Halifax, to negociate anew with the French king in the preſent proſperous ſituation of that monarch's affairs.

Theſe miniſters paſſed through Holland; and, as they were ſuppoſed to bring peace to the diſtreſſed republic, they were every where received with the loudeſt acclamations. 'God bleſs the king of England! God bleſs the prince of Orange! Confuſion to the States!' This was every where the cry of the populace. The ambaſſadors had ſeveral conferences with the States and the prince of Orange; but made no reaſonable advances

towards an accommodation. They went to Utrecht, where they renewed the league with Lewis, and agreed that neither of the kings ſhould make peace with Holland but by common conſent. They next gave in their pretenſions, of which the following are the principal articles: that the Dutch ſhould give up the honour of the flag, without the leaſt reſerve or limitation; nor ſhould whole fleets, even on the coaſt of Holland, refuſe to ſtrike or lower their top-ſails to the ſmalleſt ſhip carrying the Britiſh flag: that all perſons guilty of treaſon againſt the king, or of writing ſeditious libels, ſhould, on complaint, be baniſhed for ever the dominions of the States: that the Dutch ſhould pay the king a million ſterling towards the charges of the war, together with ten thouſand pounds a year for permiſſion to fiſh on the Britiſh ſeas: that they ſhould ſhare the Indian trade with the Engliſh: that the prince of Orange and his deſcendants ſhould enjoy the ſovereignty of the United Provinces; at leaſt that they ſhould be inveſted with the dignities of Stadtholder, Admiral, and General, in as ample a manner as had ever been enjoyed by any of his anceſtors: and that the iſle of Walcheren, the city and caſtle of Sluis, together with the iſles of Cadſant, Goree, and Vorne, ſhould be put into the king's hands as a ſecurity for the performance of articles.

The terms propoſed by Lewis bereaved the republic of all ſecurity againſt any invaſion by land from France; thoſe demanded by Charles expoſed them equally to an invaſion by ſea from England: and, when both were united, they appeared abſolutely intolerable, and reduced the Hollanders, who ſaw no means of defence, to the utmoſt deſpair. What extremely augmented their diſtreſs, were the violent factions with which they continued to be every where agitated. De Wit, too pertinacious in defence of his own ſyſtem of liberty, while the very being of the commonwealth was threatened, ſtill perſevered in

oppoſing the repeal of the perpetual edict, now become the object of horror to the Dutch populace. Their rage at laſt broke all bounds, and bore every thing before it; they roſe in an inſurrection at Dort, and by force conſtrained their burgomaſters to ſign the repeal, ſo much demanded. This proved a ſignal of a general revolt throughout all the provinces.

PRINCE OF ORANGE STADTHOLDER.

At Amſterdam, the Hague, Middlebourg, Rotterdam, the people flew to arms, and, trampling under foot the authority of their magiſtrates, obliged them to ſubmit to the prince of Orange. They expelled from their office ſuch as diſpleaſed them; they required the prince to appoint others in their place; and, agreeably to the proceeding of the populace in all ages, provided they might wreak their vengeance on their ſuperiors, they expreſſed great indifference for the protection of their civil liberties.

The ſuperior talents and virtues of de Wit made him on this occaſion the chief object of envy, and expoſed him to the utmoſt rage of popular prejudice. Four aſſaſſins, actuated by no other motive than miſtaken zeal, had aſſaulted him in the ſtreets, and, after giving him many wounds, had left him for dead: one of them was puniſhed; the others were never queſtioned for the crime. His brother Cornelius, who had behaved with prudence and courage on board the fleet, was obliged by ſickneſs to come aſhore, and he was now confined to his houſe at Dort: ſome aſſaſſins broke in upon him; and it was with the utmoſt difficulty that his family and ſervants could repel their violence. At Amſterdam the houſe of the brave de Ruyter, the ſole reſource of the diſtreſſed commonwealth, was ſurrounded by the enraged populace; and his wife and children were for ſome time expoſed to the moſt imminent danger.

One Tichelaer, a barber, a man noted for infamy, accuſed Cornelius de Wit of endeavouring by bribes to engage him in the deſign of poiſoning the prince of Orange. The accuſation, though attended with the moſt improbable and even abſurd circumſtances, was greedily received by the credulous multitude; and Cornelius was cited before a court of judicature. The judges, either blinded by the ſame prejudices, or not daring to oppoſe the popular torrent, condemned him to ſuffer the queſtion. This man, who had bravely ſerved his country in war, and who had been inveſted with the higheſt dignities, was delivered into the hands of the executioner, and torn in pieces by the moſt inhuman torments. Amidſt the ſevere agonies which he endured he ſtill made proteſtations of his innocence, and frequently repeated an ode of Horace, which contained ſentiments ſuited to his deplorable condition:

Juſtum et tenacem propoſiti virum, &c.[n]

MASSACRE OF THE DE WITS.

The judges, however, condemned him to loſe his offices, and to be baniſhed the commonwealth. The penſionary, who had not been terrified from performing the part of a kind brother and faithful friend during this proſecution, reſolved not to deſert him on account of the unmerited infamy which was endeavoured to be thrown upon him. He came to his brother's priſon, determined to accompany him to the place of his exile. The ſignal was given to the populace; they roſe in arms; they broke open the doors of the priſon; they pulled out the two brothers; and a thouſand hands vied who ſhould firſt be imbrued in their blood. Even their death did not ſatiate the brutal rage of the multitude; they exerciſed, on the dead bodies of

thoſe virtuous citizens, indignities too ſhocking to be recited; and, till tired with their own fury, they permitted not the friends of the deceaſed to approach, or to beſtow on them the honours of a funeral, ſilent and unattended.

GOOD CONDUCT OF THE PRINCE.

THE maſſacre of the de Wits put an end for the time to the remains of their party; and all men, from fear, inclination, or prudence, concurred in expreſſing the moſt implicit obedience to the prince of Orange. The republic, though half ſubdued by foreign force, and as yet diſmayed by its misfortunes, was now firmly united under one leader, and began to collect the remains of its priſtine vigour. William, worthy of that heroic family from which he ſprang, adopted ſentiments becoming the head of a brave and free people. He bent all his efforts againſt the public enemy; he fought not againſt his country any advantages which might be dangerous to civil liberty. Thoſe intolerable conditions demanded by their inſolent enemies he exhorted the States to reject with ſcorn; and by his advice they put an end to negociations, which ſerved only to break the courage of their fellow citizens, and delay the aſſiſtance of their allies. He ſhewed them that the numbers and riches of the people, aided by the advantages of ſituation, would ſtill be ſufficient, if they abandoned not themſelves to deſpair, to reſiſt, at leaſt retard, the progreſs of their enemies, and preſerve the remaining provinces, till the other nations of Europe, ſenſible of the common danger, could come to their relief. He repreſented that, as envy at their opulence and liberty had produced this mighty combination againſt them, they would in vain expect by conceſſions to ſatisfy foes, whoſe pretenſions were as little bounded by moderation as by juſtice. He exhorted them to remember the generous valour

of their anceſtors, who, yet in the infancy of the ſtate, preferred liberty to every human conſideration; and, rouſing their ſpirits to an obſtinate defence, repelled all the power, riches, and military diſcipline, of Spain. And he profeſſed himſelf willing to tread in the ſteps of his illuſtrious predeceſſors; and hoped that, as they had honoured him with the ſame affection which their anceſtors paid to the former princes of Orange, they would ſecond his efforts with the ſame conſtancy and manly fortitude.

The ſpirit of the young prince infuſed itſelf into his hearers. Thoſe, who lately entertained thoughts of yielding their necks to ſubjection, were now bravely determined to reſiſt the haughty victor, and to defend thoſe laſt remains of their native ſoil, of which neither the irruptions of Lewis, nor the inundation of waters, had as yet bereaved them. Should even the ground fail them on which they might combat, they were ſtill reſolved not to yield the generous ſtrife; but, flying to their ſettlements in the Indies, erect a new empire in thoſe remote regions, and preſerve alive, even in the climates of ſlavery, that liberty of which Europe was become unworthy. Already they concerted meaſures for executing this extraordinary reſolution; and found that the veſſels contained in their harbours could tranſport above two hundred thouſand inhabitants to the Eaſt Indies.

The combined princes, finding at laſt ſome appearance of oppoſition, bent all their efforts to ſeduce the prince of Orange, on whoſe valour and conduct the fate of the commonwealth entirely depended. The ſovereignty of the province of Holland was offered him, and the protection of England and France, to enſure him as well againſt the invaſion of foreign enemies as the inſurrection of his ſubjects. All propoſals were generouſly rejected; and the prince declared his reſolution to retire into Germany, and to paſs his life in hunting on his lands there, rather than abandon the liberty of his country, or betray the truſt repoſed in

him. When Buckingham urged the inevitable deſtruction which hung over the United Provinces, and aſked him whether he did not ſee that the commonwealth was ruined? 'There is one certain means,' replied the prince, 'by which I can be ſure never to ſee my country's ruin; I will die in the laſt ditch.'

The people in Holland had been much incited to eſpouſe the prince's party by the hopes that the king of England, pleaſed with his nephew's elevation, would abandon thoſe dangerous engagements into which he had entered, and would afford his protection to the diſtreſſed republic. But all theſe hopes were ſoon found to be fallacious. Charles ſtill perſiſted in his alliance with France; and the combined fleets approached the coaſt of Holland with an Engliſh army on board, commanded by count Schomberg. It is pretended that an unuſual tide carried them off the coaſt; and that Providence thus interpoſed, in an extraordinary manner, to ſave the republic from the imminent danger to which it was expoſed. Very tempeſtuous weather, it is certain, prevailed all the reſt of the ſeaſon; and the combined fleets either were blown to a diſtance, or durſt not approach a coaſt which might prove fatal to them. Lewis, finding that his enemies gathered courage behind their inundations, and that no farther ſucceſs was likely for the preſent to attend his arms, had retired to Verſailles.

The other nations of Europe regarded the ſubjection of Holland as the forerunner of their own ſlavery, and retained no hopes of defending themſelves ſhould ſuch a mighty acceſſion be made to the already exorbitant power of France. The emperor, though he lay at a diſtance, and was naturally ſlow in his undertakings, began to put himſelf in motion; Brandenburgh ſhewed a diſpoſition to ſupport the States; Spain had ſent ſome forces to their aſſiſtance; and, by the preſent efforts of the prince of Orange, and the proſpect of relief from their allies, a different

face of affairs began already to appear. Groninghen was the firſt place that ſtopped the progreſs of the enemy; the biſhop of Munſter was repulſed from before that town, and obliged to raiſe the ſiege with loſs and diſhonour. Naerden was attempted by the prince of Orange; but mareſchal Luxembourg, breaking in upon his entrenchments with a ſudden irruption, obliged him to abandon the enterpriſe.

A PARLIAMENT. 1673.

THERE was no ally on whom the Dutch more relied for aſſiſtance than the parliament of England, which the king's neceſſities at laſt obliged him to aſſemble. The eyes of all men, both abroad and at home, were fixed on this ſeſſion, which met after prorogations continued for near two years. It was evident how much the king dreaded the aſſembling of his parliament; and the diſcontents univerſally excited by the bold meaſures entered into, both in foreign and domeſtic adminiſtration, had given but too juſt foundation for his apprehenſions.

The king, however, in his ſpeech, addreſſed them with all the appearance of cordiality and confidence. He ſaid that he would have aſſembled them ſooner, had he not been deſirous to allow them leiſure for attending their private affairs, as well as to give his people reſpite from taxes and impoſitions: that ſince their laſt meeting he had been forced into a war, not only juſt but neceſſary; neceſſary both for the honour and intereſt of the nation: that, in order to have peace at home while he had war abroad, he had iſſued his declaration of indulgence to diſſenters, and had found many good effects to reſult from that meaſure: that he heard of ſome exceptions which had been taken to this exerciſe of power; but he would tell them plainly that he was reſolved to ſtick to his declaration, and would be much offended

at any contradiction: and that, though a rumour had been ſpread, as if the new levied army had been intended to control law and property, he regarded that jealouſy as ſo frivolous, that he was reſolved to augment his forces next ſpring, and did not doubt but they would conſider the neceſſity of them in their ſupplies. The reſt of the buſineſs he left to the chancellor.

The chancellor enlarged on the ſame topics, and added many extraordinary poſitions of his own. He told them that the Hollanders were the common enemies of all monarchies, eſpecially that of England, their only competitor for commerce and naval power, and the ſole obſtacle to their views of attaining an univerſal empire, as extenſive as that of ancient Rome: that, even during their preſent diſtreſs and danger, they were ſo intoxicated with theſe ambitious projects as to ſlight all treaty, nay, to refuſe all ceſſation of hoſtilities: that the king, in entering on this war, did no more than proſecute thoſe maxims which had engaged the parliament to adviſe and approve of the laſt; and he might therefore ſafely ſay that it was their war: that, the States being the eternal enemies of England, both by intereſt and inclination, the parliament had wiſely judged it neceſſary to extirpate them, and had laid it down as an eternal maxim that 'delenda eſt Carthago;' this hoſtile government by all means is to be ſubverted: and that, though the Dutch pretended to have aſſurances that the parliament would furniſh no ſupplies to the king, he was confident that this hope, in which they extremely truſted, would ſoon fail them.

Before the commons entered upon buſineſs there lay before them an affair which diſcovered, beyond a poſſibility of doubt, the arbitrary projects of the king; and the meaſures taken upon it proved that the houſe was not at preſent in a diſpoſition to ſubmit to them. It had been the conſtant undiſputed practice, ever ſince the parliament in 1604, for the houſe, in caſe of any

vacancy, to iſſue out writs for new elections; and the chancellor, who before that time had had ſome precedents in his favour, had ever afterwards abſtained from all exerciſe of that authority. This indeed was one of the firſt ſteps which the commons had taken in eſtabliſhing and guarding their privileges; and nothing could be more requiſite than this precaution, in order to prevent the clandeſtine iſſuing of writs, and to enſure a fair and free election. No one but ſo deſperate a miniſter as Shafteſbury, who had entered into a regular plan for reducing the people to ſubjection, could have entertained thoughts of breaking in upon a practice ſo reaſonable and ſo well eſtabliſhed, or could have hoped to ſucceed in ſo bold an enterpriſe. Several members had taken their ſeats upon irregular writs iſſued by the chancellor; but the houſe was no ſooner aſſembled, and the ſpeaker placed in the chair, than a motion was made againſt them; and the members themſelves had the modeſty to withdraw. Their election was declared null; and new writs, in the uſual form, were iſſued by the ſpeaker.

The next ſtep taken by the commons had the appearance of ſome more complaiſance; but in reality proceeded from the ſame ſpirit of liberty and independence. They entered a reſolution that, in order to ſupply his majeſty's extraordinary occaſions, for that was the expreſſion employed, they would grant eighteen months aſſeſſment, at the rate of ſeventy thouſand pounds a month, amounting in the whole to twelve hundred and ſixty thouſand pounds. Though unwilling to come to a violent breach with the king, they would not expreſs the leaſt approbation of the war; and they gave him the proſpect of this ſupply only that they might have permiſſion to proceed peaceably in the redreſs of the other grievances, of which they had ſuch reaſon to complain.

No grievance was more alarming, both on account of the ſecret views from which it proceeded and the conſequences which

might attend it, than the declaration of indulgence. A remonſtrance was immediately framed againſt that exerciſe of prerogative. The king defended his meaſure. The commons perſiſted in their oppoſition to it; and they repreſented that ſuch a practice, if admitted, might tend to interrupt the free courſe of the laws, and alter the legiſlative power, which had always been acknowledged to reſide in the king and the two houſes. All men were in expectation with regard to the iſſue of this extraordinary affair. The king ſeemed engaged in honour to ſupport his meaſure; and, in order to prevent all oppoſition, he had poſitively declared that he would ſupport it. The commons were obliged to perſevere, not only becauſe it was diſhonourable to be foiled where they could plead ſuch ſtrong reaſons, but alſo becauſe, if the king prevailed in his pretenſions, an end ſeemed to be put to all the legal limitations of the conſtitution.

DECLARATION OF INDULGENCE RECALLED.

It is evident that Charles was now come to that delicate criſis which he ought at firſt to have foreſeen when he embraced thoſe deſperate counſels; and his reſolutions, in ſuch an event, ought long ago to have been entirely fixed and determined. Beſides his uſual guards, he had an army encamped at Blackheath under the command of mareſchal Schomberg, a foreigner; and many of the officers were of the catholic religion. His ally, the French king, he might expect would ſecond him, if force became requiſite for reſtraining his diſcontented ſubjects, and ſupporting the meaſures which by common conſent they had agreed to purſue. But the king was ſtartled when he approached ſo dangerous a precipice as that which lay before him. Were violence once offered, there could be no return, he ſaw, to mutual confidence and truſt with his people; the perils attending

foreign ſuccours, eſpecially from ſo mighty a prince, were ſufficiently apparent; and the ſucceſs which his own arms had met with in the war was not ſo great as to increaſe his authority, or terrify the malcontents from oppoſition. The deſire of power, likewiſe, which had engaged Charles in theſe precipitate meaſures, had leſs proceeded, we may obſerve, from ambition than from love of eaſe. Strict limitations of the conſtitution rendered the conduct of buſineſs complicated and troubleſome; and it was impoſſible for him, without much contrivance and intrigue, to procure the money neceſſary for his pleaſures, or even for the regular ſupport of government. When the proſpect, therefore, of ſuch dangerous oppoſition preſented itſelf, the ſame love of eaſe inclined him to retract what it ſeemed ſo difficult to maintain; and his turn of mind, naturally pliant and careleſs, made him find little objection to a meaſure which a more haughty prince would have embraced with the utmoſt reluctance. That he might yield with the better grace, he aſked the opinion of the houſe of peers, who adviſed him to comply with the commons. Accordingly the king ſent for the declaration, and with his own hands broke the ſeals. The commons expreſſed the utmoſt ſatisfaction with this meaſure, and the moſt entire duty to his majeſty. Charles aſſured them that he would willingly paſs any law offered him which might tend to give them ſatisfaction in all their juſt grievances.

Shafteſbury, when he found the king recede at once from ſo capital a point, which he had publicly declared his reſolution to maintain, concluded that all ſchemes for enlarging royal authority were vaniſhed, and that Charles was utterly incapable of purſuing ſuch difficult and ſuch hazardous meaſures. The parliament, he foreſaw, might puſh their inquiries into thoſe counſels which were ſo generally odious; and the king, from the ſame facility of diſpoſition, might abandon his miniſters to their vengeance.

He reſolved, therefore, to make his peace in time with that party which was likely to predominate, and to atone for all his violences in favour of monarchy by like violences in oppoſition to it. Never turn was more ſudden, or leſs calculated to ſave appearances. Immediately he entered into all the cabals of the country party; and diſcovered to them, perhaps magnified, the arbitrary deſigns of the court, in which he himſelf had born ſo deep a ſhare. He was received with open arms by that party, who ſtood in need of ſo able a leader; and no queſtions were aſked with regard to his late apoſtaſy. The various factions into which the nation had been divided, and the many ſudden revolutions to which the public had been expoſed, had tended much to debauch the minds of men, and to deſtroy the ſenſe of honour and decorum in their public conduct.

But the parliament, though ſatisfied with the king's compliance, had not loſt all thoſe apprehenſions to which the meaſures of the court had given ſo much foundation. A law paſſed for impoſing a teſt on all who ſhould enjoy any public office. Beſides taking the oaths of allegiance and ſupremacy, and receiving the ſacrament in the eſtabliſhed church, they were obliged to abjure all belief in the doctrine of tranſubſtantiation. As the diſſenters had ſeconded the efforts of the commons againſt the king's declaration of indulgence, and ſeemed reſolute to accept of no toleration in an illegal manner, they had acquired great favour with the parliament; and a project was adopted to unite the whole proteſtant intereſt againſt the common enemy, who now began to appear formidable. A bill paſſed the commons for the eaſe and relief of the proteſtant nonconformiſts; but met with ſome difficulties, at leaſt delays, in the houſe of peers.

The reſolution for ſupply was carried into a law, as a recompenſe to the king for his conceſſions. An act, likewiſe, of general pardon and indemnity was paſſed, which ſcreened the miniſters

from all farther inquiry. The parliament probably thought that the beſt method of reclaiming the criminals was to ſhew them that their caſe was not deſperate. Even the remonſtrance which the commons voted of their grievances may be regarded as a proof that their anger was, for the time, ſomewhat appeaſed. None of the capital points are there touched on; the breach of the triple league, the French alliance, or the ſhutting up of the exchequer. The ſole grievances mentioned are, an arbitrary impoſition on coals for providing convoys, the exerciſe of martial law, the quartering and preſſing of ſoldiers; and they prayed that, after the concluſion of the war, the whole army ſhould be diſbanded. The king gave them a gracious, though an evaſive, anſwer. When buſineſs was finiſhed the two houſes adjourned themſelves.

TWO SEA-FIGHTS.

THOUGH the king had receded from his declaration of indulgence, and thereby had tacitly relinquiſhed the diſpenſing power, he was ſtill reſolved, notwithſtanding his bad ſucceſs both at home and abroad, to perſevere in his alliance with France, and in the Dutch war, and conſequently in all thoſe ſecret views, whatever they were, which depended on thoſe fatal meaſures. The money granted by parliament ſufficed to equip a fleet, of which prince Rupert was declared admiral; for the duke was ſet aſide by the teſt. Sir Edward Sprague and the earl of Oſſory commanded under the prince. A French ſquadron joined them, commanded by d'Etrees. The combined fleets ſet ſail towards the coaſt of Holland, and found the enemy lying at anchor within the ſands at Schonvelt. There is a natural confuſion attending ſea-fights even beyond other military tranſactions, derived from the precarious operations of winds and tides, as well as from the ſmoke and darkneſs in which every thing is there involved. No wonder,

therefore, that accounts of thoſe battles are apt to contain uncertainties and contradictions, eſpecially when delivered by writers of the hoſtile nations, who take pleaſure in exalting the advantages of their own countrymen and depreſſing thoſe of the enemy. All we can ſay with certainty of this battle is, that both ſides boaſted of the victory; and we may thence infer that the event was not deciſive. The Dutch, being near home, retired into their harbours. In a week they were refitted, and preſented themſelves again to the combined fleets. A new action enſued, not more deciſive than the foregoing. It was not fought with great obſtinacy on either ſide; but whether the Dutch or the allies firſt retired ſeems to be a matter of uncertainty. The loſs in the former of theſe actions fell chiefly on the French, whom the Engliſh, diffident of their intentions, took care to place under their own ſquadrons; and they thereby expoſed them to all the fire of the enemy. There ſeems not to have been a ſhip loſt on either ſide in the ſecond engagement.

It was ſufficient glory to de Ruyter that, with a fleet much inferior to the combined ſquadrons of France and England, he could fight them without any notable diſadvantage; and it was ſufficient victory that he could defeat the project of a deſcent in Zealand, which, had it taken place, had endangered, in the preſent circumſtances, the total overthrow of the Dutch commonwealth. Prince Rupert was alſo ſuſpected not to favour the king's projects for ſubduing Holland, or enlarging his authority at home; and from theſe motives he was thought not to have preſſed ſo hard on the enemy as his well-known valour gave reaſon to expect. It is indeed remarkable that during this war, though the Engliſh with their allies much overmatched the Hollanders, they were not able to gain any advantage over them; while in the former war, though often overborn by numbers, they ſtill exerted themſelves with the greateſt courage, and al-

ways acquired great renown, ſometimes even ſignal victories. But they were diſguſted at the preſent meaſures, which they deemed pernicious to their country; they were not ſatisfied in the juſtice of the quarrel; and they entertained a perpetual jealouſy of their confederates, whom, had they been permitted, they would with much more pleaſure have deſtroyed than even the enemy themſelves.

ANOTHER SEA-FIGHT.

If prince Rupert was not favourable to the deſigns of the court, he enjoyed as little favour from the court, at leaſt from the duke, who, though he could no longer command the fleet, ſtill poſſeſſed the chief authority in the admiralty. The prince complained of a total want of every thing, powder, ſhot, proviſions, beer, and even water; and he went into harbour that he might refit his ſhips, and ſupply their numerous neceſſities. After ſome weeks he was refitted, and he again put to ſea. The hoſtile fleets met at the mouth of the Texel, and fought the laſt battle which, during the courſe of ſo many years, theſe neighbouring maritime powers have diſputed with each other. De Ruyter, and under him Tromp, commanded the Dutch in this action, as in the two former: for the prince of Orange had reconciled theſe gallant rivals; and they retained nothing of their former animoſity, except that emulation which made them exert themſelves with more diſtinguiſhed bravery againſt the enemies of their country. Brankert was oppoſed to d'Etrees, de Ruyter to prince Rupert, Tromp to Sprague. It is to be remarked that in all actions theſe brave admirals laſt mentioned had ſtill ſelected each other, as the only antagoniſts worthy each other's valour; and no deciſive advantage had as yet been gained by either of them. They fought in this battle as if there were no mean between death and victory.

D'Etrees and all the French ſquadron, except rear-admiral Martel, kept at a diſtance; and Brankert, inſtead of attacking them, bore down to the aſſiſtance of de Ruyter, who was engaged in furious combat with prince Rupert. On no occaſion did the prince acquire more deſerved honour; his conduct, as well as valour, ſhone out with ſignal luſtre; having diſengaged his ſquadron from the numerous enemies, with whom he was every where ſurrounded, and having joined ſir John Chichley, his rear-admiral, who had been ſeparated from him, he made haſte to the relief of Sprague, who was hard preſſed by Tromp's ſquadron. The Royal Prince, in which Sprague firſt engaged, was ſo diſabled, that he was obliged to hoiſt his flag on board the St. George; while Tromp was for a like reaſon obliged to quit his ſhip, the Golden Lion, and go on board the Comet. The fight was renewed with the utmoſt fury by theſe valorous rivals, and by the rear-admirals, their ſeconds. Oſſory, rear-admiral to Sprague, was preparing to board Tromp, when he ſaw the St. George terribly torn, and in a manner diſabled. Sprague was leaving her, in order to hoiſt his flag on board a third ſhip, and return to the charge; when a ſhot, which had paſſed through the St. George, took his boat, and ſunk her. The admiral was drowned, to the great regret of Tromp himſelf, who beſtowed on his valour the deſerved praiſes.

Prince Rupert found affairs in this dangerous ſituation, and ſaw moſt of the ſhips in Sprague's ſquadron diſabled from fight. The engagement however was renewed, and became very cloſe and bloody. The prince threw the enemy into diſorder. To increaſe it, he ſent among them two fire-ſhips; and at the ſame time made a ſignal to the French to bear down, which if they had done a deciſive victory muſt have enſued. But the prince, when he ſaw that they neglected his ſignal, and obſerved that moſt of his ſhips were in no condition to keep the ſea long,

wiſely provided for their ſafety by making eaſy ſail towards the Engliſh coaſt. The victory in this battle was as doubtful as in all the actions fought during the preſent war.

The turn which the affairs of the Hollanders took by land was more favourable. The prince of Orange beſieged and took Naerden; and from this ſucceſs gave his country reaſon to hope for ſtill more proſperous enterpriſes. Montecuculi, who commanded the Imperialiſts on the Upper Rhine, deceived, by the moſt artful conduct, the vigilance and penetration of Turenne, and, making a ſudden march, ſat down before Bonne. The prince of Orange's conduct was no leſs maſterly, while he eluded all the French generals, and, leaving them behind him, joined his army to that of the Imperialiſts. Bonne was taken in a few days; ſeveral other places in the electorate of Cologne fell into the hands of the allies; and, the communication being thus cut off between France and the United Provinces, Lewis was obliged to recall his forces, and to abandon all his conqueſts with greater rapidity than he had at firſt made them. The taking of Maeſtricht was the only advantage which he gained this campaign.

CONGRESS OF COLOGNE.

A CONGRESS was opened at Cologne under the mediation of Sweden, but with ſmall hopes of ſucceſs. The demands of the two kings were ſuch as muſt have reduced the Hollanders to perpetual ſervitude. In proportion as the affairs of the States roſe, the kings ſunk in their demands; but the States ſtill ſunk lower in their offers; and it was found impoſſible for the parties ever to agree on any conditions. After the French evacuated Holland the congreſs broke up; and the ſeizure of prince William of Furſtenburg by the Imperialiſts afforded the French and Engliſh a good pretence for leaving Cologne. The Dutch ambaſſa-

dors, in their memorials, expreſſed all the haughtineſs and diſdain ſo natural to a free ſtate which had met with ſuch unmerited ill-uſage.

A PARLIAMENT.

THE parliament of England was now aſſembled, and diſcovered much greater ſymptoms of ill humour than had appeared in the laſt ſeſſion. They had ſeen for ſome time a negociation of marriage carried on between the duke of York and the archduchefs of Inſpruc, a catholic of the Auſtrian family; and they had made no oppoſition. But, when that negociation failed, and the duke applied to a princeſs of the houſe of Modena, then in cloſe alliance with France; this circumſtance, joined to ſo many other grounds of diſcontent, raiſed the commons into a flame; and they remonſtrated with the greateſt zeal againſt the intended marriage. The king told them that their remonſtrance came too late; and that the marriage was already agreed on, and even celebrated by proxy. The commons ſtill inſiſted; and, proceeding to the examination of the other parts of government, they voted the ſtanding army a grievance, and declared that they would grant no more ſupply, unleſs it appeared that the Dutch were ſo obſtinate as to refuſe all reaſonable conditions of peace. To cut ſhort theſe diſagreeable attacks, the king reſolved to prorogue the parliament; and with that intention he came unexpectedly to the houſe of peers, and ſent the uſher to ſummon the commons. It happened that the ſpeaker and the uſher nearly met at the door of the houſe; but, the ſpeaker being within, ſome of the members ſuddenly ſhut the door, and cried, 'To the chair, to the chair!' while others cried, 'The black rod is at the door.' The ſpeaker was hurried to the chair, and the following motions were inſtantly made: that the alliance with

France is a grievance; that the evil counſellors about the king are a grievance; that the duke of Lauderdale is a grievance, and not fit to be truſted or employed. There was a general cry, 'To the queſtion, to the queſtion!' But, the uſher knocking violently at the door, the ſpeaker leaped from the chair, and the houſe roſe in great confuſion.

During the interval Shafteſbury, whoſe intrigues with the malcontent party were now become notorious, was diſmiſſed from the office of chancellor; and the great ſeal was given to ſir Heneage Finch, by the title of lord-keeper. The teſt had incapacitated Clifford; and the white ſtaff was conferred on ſir Thomas Oſborne, ſoon after created earl of Danby, a miniſter of abilities, who had riſen by his parliamentary talents. Clifford retired into the country, and ſoon after died.

The parliament had been prorogued in order to give the duke leiſure to finiſh his marriage; but the king's neceſſities ſoon obliged him again to aſſemble them, and by ſome popular acts he paved the way for the ſeſſion. But all his efforts were in vain. The diſguſt of the commons was fixed in foundations too deep to be eaſily removed. They began with applications for a general faſt; by which they intimated that the nation was in a very calamitous condition: they addreſſed againſt the king's guards, which they repreſented as dangerous to liberty, and even as illegal, ſince they never yet had received the ſanction of parliament: they took ſome ſteps towards eſtabliſhing a new and more rigorous teſt againſt popery; and, what chiefly alarmed the court, they made an attack on the members of the cabal, to whoſe pernicious counſels they imputed all their preſent grievances. Clifford was dead; Shafteſbury had made his peace with the country party, and was become their leader; Buckingham was endeavouring to imitate Shafteſbury, but his intentions were as yet known to very few; a motion was therefore made

in the houſe of commons for his impeachment: he deſired to be heard at the bar; but expreſſed himſelf in ſo confuſed and ambiguous a manner as gave little ſatisfaction. He was required to anſwer preciſely to certain queries, which they propoſed to him: theſe regarded all the articles of miſconduct above mentioned; and, among the reſt, the following query ſeems remarkable: 'By whoſe advice was the army brought up to overawe the debates and reſolutions of the houſe of commons?' This ſhews to what length the ſuſpicions of the houſe were at that time carried. Buckingham, in all his anſwers, endeavoured to exculpate himſelf, and to load Arlington. He ſucceeded not in the former intention: the commons voted an addreſs for his removal. But Arlington, who was on many accounts obnoxious to the houſe, was attacked. Articles were drawn up againſt him, though the impeachment was never proſecuted.

PEACE WITH HOLLAND. 1674.

THE king plainly ſaw that he could expect no ſupply from the commons for carrying on a war ſo odious to them. He reſolved therefore to make a ſeparate peace with the Dutch, on the terms which they had propoſed through the channel of the Spaniſh ambaſſador. With a cordiality which, in the preſent diſpoſition on both ſides, was probably but affected, but which was obliging, he aſked advice of the parliament. The parliament unanimouſly concurred, both in thanks for this gracious condeſcenſion and in their advice for peace. Peace was accordingly concluded. The honour of the flag was yielded by the Dutch in the moſt extenſive terms; a regulation of trade was agreed to; all poſſeſſions were reſtored to the ſame condition as before the war; the Engliſh planters in Surinam were allowed to remove at pleaſure; and the States agreed to pay to the king the ſum of eight

hundred thouſand patacoons, near three hundred thouſand pounds. Four days after the parliament was prorogued the peace was proclaimed in London, to the great joy of the people. Spain had declared that ſhe could no longer remain neuter if hoſtilities were continued againſt Holland; and a ſenſible decay of trade was foreſeen in caſe a rupture ſhould enſue with that kingdom. The proſpect of this loſs contributed very much to increaſe the national averſion to the preſent war, and to enliven the joy for its concluſion.

There was in the French ſervice a great body of Engliſh, to the number of ten thouſand men, who had acquired honour in every action, and had greatly contributed to the ſucceſſes of Lewis. Theſe troops, Charles ſaid, he was bound by treaty not to recall; but he obliged himſelf to the States by a ſecret article not to allow them to be recruited. His partiality to France prevented a ſtrict execution of this engagement.

END OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

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